

JULY 1966

50c

# COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

- *ROY ROGERS*
- *ERNEST TUBB*
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**TENNESSEE  
ERNIE FORD**

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**TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD**  
is our guest columnist this month.  
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**Next  
Month  
In**



**Hank Thompson   Carl & Pearl Butler   Del Reeves   Justin Tubb**

"TIPS FROM THE TOP" BY BILLY WALKER

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



# Westcoast NOTES

By JIM HARRIS

Last month's column was more widely read than I imagined it would be. If you remember, I gave clues as to who was going to be at the KFOX bash at Melodyland Theatre May 24-29. I promised to reveal the names this month. As it turned out, several people didn't want to wait. I got bombed with letters by people all over the United States. What really wounded me was that virtually all of them guessed every one. I thought I had some pretty rough clues. So for the benefit of those of you that didn't get to the show . . . here are the answers. First one was Buck Owens (the fictional space pilot I mentioned was Buck Rogers—'member him?) There aren't too many guys in this business that have sold 20 million records, but Hank Thompson has. The rest of the program was made up of Roy Clark, Mary Taylor, and, added after last month's magazine was off the press, Buddy Cagle.

So now that I've revealed the cast, Act One. Melodyland Theatre is located right across the street from fabulous Disneyland, in the city of Anaheim, California. It is a unique place in that it is theatre in the round. By this we mean that the stage is in the center and the seats surround it. The performers come down the aisles. All scene changes are made down the aisles in total darkness. I found out a long time ago that it isn't such a good idea to get up and into the aisle during scene changes. It can be very unhealthy.

The first number was by the Brazos Valley Boys. Then the bass player sang "Don't You Ever Get Tired Of Hurting Me." If you closed your eyes you'd find yourself saying "Nobody told me that Ray Price was going to be here." He sounds quite a bit like Ray. Biff Collie of KFOX introduced Hank Thompson to thunderous applause. It was obviously a very enthusiastic country music crowd, as every song Hank sang was greeted by applause before he was two bars into it. But the ones that really brought the applause were "You Nearly Lose Your Mind," "Wild Side Of Life," and "Six Pack To Go." Next on the show was Mary Taylor. A beautiful blonde, Mary is quite a comedienne too. She did "Silver Threads And Golden Needles," "I Walk The Line" (with a little more emphasis on the "Ummm" between choruses to the audience's delight), "The Race Is On" and of course her own composition, "Queen Of The House." Biff Collie again took the mike and brought out Buddy Cagle. Local boy Buddy did "Muleskinner Blues," "I Remember You," and of course, "Tonight I'm Comin' Home" which is a big hit for Buddy. Biff then brought to the stage the man that has more "handles" tacked onto him than anyone in the business. Titles like "The man of a Thousand Talents," "The Clown Prince of Country Comedy," "Rubber Face" and many more . . . Roy Clark. Fantastic guitarist, (I believe a better term would be "unbelievable"), great singer, and a very, very funny man. It's a good thing that Roy's performance was followed by intermission

# Canadian NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

The Carl Smith Country Music Hall has been touring Western Canada for the past few weeks and included Canadians Blake Emmons, Dianne Leigh, Ron McLeod and Cam Whyte. They are currently filming next season's shows in color. Guests to look forward to are Ferlin Husky, Roy Drusky, Bill Anderson, The Carter Family, Kitty Wells & Johnny Wright, Bill Philips and Ruby Wright. The Maple Creek Boys, who back up the show, is led by Johnny Bourque with Roy Penny, Bunty Petre, Paul Mennard and Johnny Sibert. They are the regular house band at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto. Johnny Bourque has a new Columbia release called "Loving You Again" by Bill Anderson. Roy Penny was voted the No. 1 guitar instrumentalist in Canada last year and has a new album, "Boss Guitar."

Dianne Leigh will return as the regular vocalist next season on Country Music Hall. She has a 5-year Capitol recording contract, a new album and a new single, "In The Shadows Of Your Heart." She plays many one-nighters and clubs around Toronto.

Paul Mennard, from Kirkland Lake, Ont., now working out of Montreal, is the fiddler of the band and one of the best anywhere. He has five albums to his credit on Columbia and Point labels.

Blake Emmons is a sparkling personality both on and off stage. Known as the world's fastest Country singer and a top yodeller, he has just signed a recording contract with a major label. He helped debut Country Music Hall, being the first Canadian artist to appear on the first show. He is looking forward to a European tour this summer.

Originally from Scotland, Cam Whyte has been in Canada for 14 years and a regular on a TV show in Calgary for six years. He will travel this summer in the U.S. and Canada.

Sponsoring the tour were executive producer of Country Music Hall, Syd Banks, and associate producer Peter Perrin. These two, with Carl Smith, have much to promote Canadian talent, and are continually scouting for new entertainers for the show. Country Music Hall is filmed at CFTO in Toronto before a live audience.

A DJ promoting Canadian talent is Eddy Topper who devotes his entire Monday shows to Canadian artists. Canadian artists—send your releases to Eddy Topper, CKDM, Dauphin, Manitoba.

## FAN CLUB GUIDE

Our Fan Club Guide has been omitted from this issue to permit a complete revision for the August issue. Fan clubs that have not re-registered must do so at once if they want to be listed in the August issue. We are asking all fan club presidents to please help us keep our fan club listing current by informing us immediately of any changes of president, address, or if the club has been dissolved.

# editorial

How important is "the image" portrayed by country artists to their audience?

The average fan has usually heard records by the artist - seen pictures (and sometimes movies) - has read newspaper and magazine articles - and has pretty well established in his own mind the kind of person he believes the artist to be.

I recently received a press release that was about a current "odd ball" rock 'n roll entertainer. This press release was published by the record company for whom he records, and they stated, among other things, that he *does not like administration, police, marriage, or any of the conventions.* The press release went on to say, "He hates dentists! Presently he is winning a bet with his guitarist, wagering who can have the most decayed teeth." He is *losing . . . 14 to 12!*

After reading this press release and recovering from a near case of shock, I couldn't help but wonder if this is the "image" that appeals to teenagers and the younger generation. Whatever happened to the "All American Boy" and "The Girl Next Door" sold to the American public by the entertainment world and advertising agencies for the last decade.

We have heard rumors occasionally of country entertainers who have had too much to drink, didn't show up for engagements and disappointed fans, or who did something that did not reflect the exact type of person we thought he or she was. However, if the above mentioned press release is an indication of the type of person that appeals to rock 'n roll fans . . . thank goodness and *Hurrah for Country Music!*

## MIDWEST NOTES

*continued from page 7*

C&W shows on schedule for later on, we understand. If you don't see any Country programs on your screen, write the program directors of area television channels, letting them know you would like to. We have seen proof here that most of them *will* pay attention - *they are in business to please the public.*

One famed newspaper that frequently carries features on C&W music is the *Chicago Sunday Tribune*-and they had a nice story in the May 29 issue. To use a term owned by the newspaper business, we must "herald" the *Tribune*. (Ouch--don't sue.)

## NASHVILLE NOTES

*Continued from page 6*

can tell you-this is a *must* for supreme listening pleasure. Even the Nashville sound technicians were stopped in their tracks by the feeling and technique put into "Strange" by Patti.

Bill Anderson and The Po' Boys are travelling in style since the purchase of their new touring bus. The Kenny Roberts fans write they enjoyed his June 4th guesting on the Opry, followed the next afternoon by the 1966 performance here of the Loretta Lynn RIA Rodeo. For questions on the Nashville scene, write me-Ruth Charon 710 Blackstone, Madison, Tenn. 37115.

## SOUTHEAST NOTES

*continued from page 7*

The next country Jubilee scheduled for Baltimore's Civic Center by WBMD Radio will be September 24. Carl Brenner has long been known for his fabulous lineups of talent-but hold on to your hats for this one. Starring will be the Buck Owens Americana Show including Kay Adams, Dick Curless, Bonnie Owens, Merle Haggard, Tommy Collins, The Buckaroos, and of course, Buck Owens. The added attraction is George Jones. Be sure and get your tickets early!

## NORTHEAST NOTES

*Continued from Page 8*

at CFOX are Gordie Sinclair, Barry King, Don Passerby and Russ Wheeler. I think there are a couple of others added since my last trip there. Montreal is a good town for country music. There are many clubs featuring C&W. The newly opened Country Palace in Montreal features a "name" guest every week.

People up in Maine are popping the buttons off their vests over Dick Curless. Dick, who hails from Maine, has picked up the habit of scoring a hit on every record.



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# TIPS FROM THE TOP

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

By

## TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD



The closer you get to the entertainment field, the more people you'll find who will tell you to give up and go back to school—or your hometown shoe store—or short order house. Folks are always willing to tell you how tough things are in their business. Well, it's true. Things are tough in everybody's business. There's no denying it. But things are never so tough that there's not room for one more. Sure, making it as an actor or singer or comedian is rough, and everyone isn't going to make it, but that doesn't mean you're not going to. Everyone isn't going to make it selling socks or insurance or automobiles, but some are. And it's possible that you might be one of those some.

The entertainment field is really not that much different from any other field of endeavor. To succeed as an entertainer, you need the *drive* to succeed. This, I feel, is more necessary than even that born talent that so many people talk about. Sure, there are those few who were blessed with such great talent that you couldn't hide their light under a barrel no matter how hard you tried, but those are rare indeed. Most of us have to work to develop and perfect what we feel may be a small glimmer of talent, whether it be as a singer, comedian or actor.

Those who do have that real desire to be successful are the ones you'll find dedicating their lives (at least their young lives) to doing what is necessary to nurture their talent. The others you'll find are much more interested in getting the quick dollar. The thing to remember is that you can't cheat the public for long. Sure, you may come up with a gimmick that might catapult you to the top — or you might hit a sound that will give you a million-selling record — but after that's gone, there must be some basis for continuing. If you learn as you go, make the effort to develop your talent, take advantage of success to improve yourself, then when the initial "lucky break" wears off, there'll be some basis for continuing and building a successful career.

Success, we must remember, is in the eye of the beholder. Success to some is a new suit, to others a new automobile and to others, a castle in Switzerland. We all have our individual formulas. If the success you're looking for is recognition, then you must put forth a maximum effort, considering the recognition you want is of a positive nature, to obtain it. If you are a comic you must be willing to put in hour upon

# NASHVILLE

## NOTES



Summer Opry visitors are being treated to extra attractions with appearances by political and TV notables. Gov. George Wallace of Alabama and his wife Lurleen, the new governor, were introduced by Roy Acuff. They hob-nobbed with C/W stars, and their faces couldn't hide the fact that they really do dig our music. In a brief interview, we discussed pros and cons of their recent nationwide popularity and network TV coverage. They inspected a copy of CML and their photographer took several pictures, which should make the next issue. The Wallace's staff musician, Lucky Ward, was there and revealed that he had been guitarist for Roger Miller before Thumbs Carlisle joined the act.

This same night, backstage, we became engrossed with stories of days gone by, related with Tex Ritter, by a songwriter from Miami whose country standard songs you have shed many a tear by. He is Irvin Rouse, writer of "Orange Blossom Special" and "Sweeter Than The Flowers," need I say more. The latter was written about his mother and the heart rendering story is too tender to be treated in this short column. We can only thank the Almighty for these great people who are able to write pure emotions into this down-to-earth music.

TV stars Gomer Pyle, Goober, Randy Boone and Sheb Wooley have thrilled Opry audiences of late, all admitting that despite their giant video successes, it is exciting to them to be on the show. Randy and Sheb were here to star in the color movie, "Country Boy," directed by Joe Kane for Ambassador Films.

New movie "Las Vegas Hillbillies" premiered in Nashville June 4. This production stars Jayne Mansfield, Mamie Van Doren, Ferlin Huskey, Del Reeves, Connie Smith, Bill Anderson, Sonny James, and features songs by Hank Mills.

Del and Ellen Reeves were blessed with their third daughter in May, and Ken and Jean Stromatt became the proud parents of another boy—their fourth! Jean is president of the Music City Women's Assn. and is secretary for Kitty Wells.

Jean Matthews, of Melody Lane Record Promotions and vice president of Music City Women's Assn., served as production assistant on film, "Girl From Tobacco Row." She extends invitation to DJs to be added to her telephone list for chatter about platters: address—407 Glenpark Dr., Nashville, Tenn.

Skeeter Davis was thrilled about her Carnegie Hall appearance in New York with the Eddy Arnold concert. Her "Wheels" song (flip side by her lead man, Ronnie Light) promises to be a hit or the record world has turned upside down.

Patti White has released her first session on Pete Drake's Stop label, titled "Strange" b/w "Is Your Old Love Still New," which she wrote herself with Opry star Curley Fox. I heard the pre-dub take, then attended the Columbia studios master session, and

# Midwest NOTES

By MARY ANN COOPER

Over 6,000 Country Music fans attended the opening of beautiful new Sangamon Country Music Park near Cisco, Illinois Memorial Day weekend. The Monticello Jaycees, with the help of Johnny Barton and park managers Bill & Sue Wood, chose a fine talent lineup that included Del Reeves and his band, Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys, Ray Pillow, Martha Carson, Jack Reno and Christy Lane. The park will feature name artists and local entertainers each Sunday this summer with live broadcasts over WHOW radio every other week. The Loretta Lynn Rodeo is the scheduled event for August 26-28. This is a wonderful vacation spot, since the park offers camping facilities too. Contact Bill Wood, P.O. 185, Monticello, Ill. for further information or reservations.

Eunice recording artist, Blanche Hobson, spent the weekend with us so that she could attend the Jamboree. Blanche has one record released which is receiving quite a few requests on Midwestern radio stations, "Lost Love" b/w "Honky Tonk Guy."

Many of you will remember Jack Carson and his "Bar-None Ranch" radio program of over a decade ago. Jack is back in radio as afternoon DJ with WHOW in Clinton, Ill. Yours truly was especially thrilled to welcome him back, since this guy was the first C/W deejay I ever listened to. Would I even be writing to you via COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE if Jack hadn't created interest in C/W in my mind and ear back then? Probably not.

Well, we have to stop referring to Hayden Thompson as "Chicago's Singing Bus Driver" since he gave up driving to concentrate on a career in music—but I have another name for him—"The Number Singer." Hayden's first recording (that we heard) was "\$16.88." His new one is "18 Yellow Roses" (Kapp Label) and WJJD's Roy Stingley has a new release written by Hayden called "11:45." Next number please?

It was an impossibility to measure the applause, the screaming girls and whistling boys, when Hayden Thompson made his first guest appearance on the Grand Ole Opry in May. He really tore 'em up with his version of "Boots Are Made For Walking" and received a couple of encores.

The syndicated Country Music TV shows are at last reaching us in Central Illinois — and this came about as a direct result of cards and letters from fans. Decatur's only TV station, WAND, asked viewers to write in their comments on The Jimmy Dean Show. The response was so great that all the mail wouldn't fit into the guitar case WAND planned to send Jimmy with the letters in it. They counted well over 6,000 pieces of mail, all from folks hopeful that ABC would take note and bring Jimmy's show back in the fall. This made WAND aware that something was lacking in their programming—Country Music! The debut of "The Wilburn Brothers Show" for this area took place the first Saturday night in June, with other syndicated

*Continued on Page 5*



# Southeast NOTES

By RED WILCOX

The biggest news in a long time around Washington, D.C. was the Constitution Hall show May 27th. Headliners were Roy Acuff, Faron Young, Dottie West, Charlie Moore and Bill Napier, Van Trevor, The Compton Brothers, Hank Williams Jr., the Cheatin' Hearts, and the Oxon Hill Cloggers. Rumor has it that a very prominent young lady around Washington was there with her fiance. There was a party immediately following the show at the Marriott Motor Lodge where WDON (Wheaton, Md.) DJs Tom Reeder, Gary Henderson and Slim Moore "hosted."

Following a recent "complete sellout smash" at JeRay's Club in Glens Falls, N.Y., The Compton Brothers dashed off to Nashville. It is a real wonder that they don't have writer's cramps with all the signings. Earlier, they had signed on as regulars of the WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling, W. Va. Their trip to Nashville brought more signings. It started with Bob Neal who will handle their East Coast bookings (Omac is still handling the West). Next, it was on the "dotted line" for Dot Records. This first record for Dot was released just a week or so later and is a real gem called "Country Music, Let It Play" b/w "Wait-in' On The Crumbs Of Your Love." "Country Music, Let It Play" contains the names of many top notch stars with anecdotes by Harry Compton. Session was handled by Charlie Green and Warner Mack.

And speaking of Warner Mack, a fan club has been started for him by Bea Wilcox, 7601 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, Va. 22306. Dues are \$1.50 per year and include membership card, four newsletters, two journals and an 8 x 10 photo.

Gary Henderson, WDON DJ is very interested in starting a fan club for "bluegrass" fans in the Washington, D.C. area. All interested persons are invited to get in touch with Gary by letter through the radio station. This will be an "area fan club" and there will be meetings if the members desire.

Area resident, Johnny Dollar of Columbia Records, has been everywhere but here. His personal appearance schedule sure has him "hopping." Johnny's manager, Dick Heard, has been trying to keep the pace of his two top stars—Johnny and Van Trevor.

Nancy (Mrs. Wes) Traynor is now spinning the country wax on Saturday evenings before husband Wes' show. Her show is called "Country Music For People Who Don't Like Country Music" and is aimed at the borderline audience. Nancy is making quite a few people aware that they really do like country music when they thought they didn't. The show is on WEEL Radio, Fairfax, Va.

Tom Reeder again has brought country music to Washington via the TV tubes—this time on UHF channel 20. The show features Bob Taylor and the String-dusters plus Ann Taylor.

WBMD Radio Baltimore, Md., will hold their National Country Music Talent Roundup again this year

*Continued on Page 5*



# TEN TOP TUNES

# Northeast NOTES



**1** **DISTANT DRUMS**  
Jim Reeves—RCA Victor 8789



**2** **TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER**  
Sonny James—Capitol 5612



**3** **TALKIN' TO THE WALL**  
Warner Mack—Decca 31911



**4** **I'M LIVING IN TWO  
WORLDS**  
Bonnie Guitar—Dot 16811



**5** **I LOVE YOU DROPS**  
Bill Anderson—Decca 31890



**6** **WOULD YOU HOLD IT  
AGAINST ME**  
Dottie West—RCA Victor 8770



**7** **PUT IT OFF UNTIL  
TOMORROW**  
Bill Phillips—Decca 31901



**8** **BACK POCKET MONEY**  
Jimmy Newman—Decca 31916



**9** **MANY HAPPY HANG-  
OVERS TO YOU**  
Jean Shepard—Capitol 5585



**10** **STOP THE START**  
Johnny Dollar—Columbia 43537

By DOUG LA VALLEY

On April 21 Plattsburg, N. Y., had its first big Country show featuring Del Reeves and his Doodle Bugs, Kenny Roberts, Doug LaValley, Jean Marie, The Lancto Brothers, and 16-year-old Donny Pendley and his Dummy, Junior. Lou Dee, WEAV radio country DJ was the emcee. It was a show that people up there will long remember.

Clyde and Willie Mae Joy have opened a new country entertainment ranch in Epson, N. H., just outside Manchester. Clyde and Willie record for Sioux Records and can be seen on WMUR-TV, Manchester, N. H. every week day morning and Thursday evenings at 8:00 P.M.

Bob Ness has taken over the reins at WHIL-FM in Medford, Mass. The station is now 50,000 watts FM and plays a solid country top 40 format from 12 noon to 1:00 A.M. seven days a week. WHIL has been on this policy now for over a year and has opened the door to a lot of events in the Boston area. WHIL has helped on most of the Tony Santo country shows, which have featured such stars as Johnny Cash, Ernest Tubbs, Kitty Wells, Buck Owens, Porter Wagoner, Carl and Pearl, Red Sovine, Statler Bros., June Carter, Sonny James, Del Reeves, Doug LaValley, Jean Marie, Norma Jean and a host of others who have appeared, and will be appearing in the Boston area.

Boston now has a 50,000 watt AM Station playing country music every Saturday from 7:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. The powerful Westinghouse station WBZ has recognized the growing trend toward country music and has joined the long list of stations now programming country western.

Duke and the Swingbillies are back on WMTW-TV weekday mornings out Lewiston, Maine.

Ken McKenzie and his troupe are still on WGAN-TV in Portland, Maine every Saturday.

Jumping over to Albany, N. Y., we find WEEE playing country music from sign-on to sign-off. Barry Frank has a portion called the "Happy Housewife." According to the area ratings, Barry commands most of the listening audience in the Capital district.

Dusty Miller remains at the helm at WAFS Amsterdam, N. Y. and is the new president of NECM.

In addition to Barry Frank's regular program, he does the MC work every Sunday afternoon on WEEE's live broadcast from the Ranch Bar in Crescent, N. Y. Harold Valentine, owner and manager of the Ranch Bar, brings in a "name" act every Sunday to headline the show.

WSEN in Syracuse, N. Y. is another all-country station. Early Williams and Fred Lewis are the DJs. Fred is also a chart recording artist and plays personal appearances in the Syracuse area.

In Rochester is WNYR, and Buffalo, WBLK-FM, both country. Up in Montreal, Que., Can., we find CFOX playing a steady diet of country music. Along with country music on radio, CFOX promotes shows at the Montreal Forum. The Country Gentlemen DJs



## TIPS FROM THE TOP

continued from page 6

hour working before anyone who will listen to you. This often involves playing small night clubs and dingy rooms in dreary towns for virtually no money so that you learn about your audience, learn about yourself, and about the material you deliver best.

As an actor you must learn your craft from every conceivable angle. You must know what the camera can and can't do, what the director is capable of doing for you, what your lighting man can do to you and for you, and, of course, you must, along the way, learn to act. This takes schooling, exercise and actual work to accomplish your ends.

As a vocalist, there is a different problem, in part at least. If you are singing pop or country, there may be no need to take vocal instruction because it is possible to ruin a sound or feeling that might be very commercial. However, a vocalist must get to know himself and his audience the same as a comedian. A vocalist must get to know what his audience likes to hear from him, and must work out the details of his act to get the most from all his positive factors and hide, as well as possible, his negative side.

I've tried to touch on many factors and many facets of the entertainment field, possibly too skimpily, but I think this will at least give you some small idea of the problems you will encounter and must be prepared to face if you really want to achieve recognition as an entertainer.

## WEST COAST NOTES

continued from page 4

because everyone needed a rest after that. Roy wrapped it up with "Malaguena" and it brought down the house.

Next on stage, followed by a number by the fabulous Buckaroos, was "Cousin Minnie Pearl!" I thought that after Roy Clark, everyone was, well, pretty well "laughed out"—not so. Minnie can make anyone laugh—and that she did. Still trying to find a "feller," she brought us all the local news from her home town, "Grinders Switch" and all the goings on of her family and friends. This gal is always good...pardon me... great!

As Biff Collie was introducing Buck Owens and elaborating on some of the artist's past credits, one could see Buck himself in the aisle bowing and raising his hands over his head like a prize fighter. Biff was laughing so hard I didn't think he was going to make it through the introduction, but he did, and Buck Owens was on stage with all the Buckaroos. Buck, the tremendous performer that he is really put on a good show. To say that we were entertained would be putting it mildly. And of course one of the things Buck is known for is "giving credit where credit is due." By this we mean stepping out of the spotlight and putting the Buckaroos in. Individually and together, Buck also brought to our attention that Mr. Leo Fender, founder of Fender Guitars, was in the audience. Buck went through the Buck Owens Song Book cover to cover and everybody loved him.

As for this month, the typesetter just stormed out the door muttering something about production schedules, so I better give up.



## PRESENTS BUCK OWENS BONANZA

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TIGER BY THE TAIL (T/ST 2283)  
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# NEWS NEWS NEWS



Guitarist Chet Atkins (left) and Conductor Arthur Fiedler have merged their talents in Atkins' most recent RCA Victor album release. Entitled "The 'Pops' Goes Country," the LP features Atkins' artistry blended with The Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Fiedler. Recorded in Boston's Symphony Hall, the LP includes such standards as "Tennessee Waltz," "Cold, Cold Heart," and "Orange Blossom Special," plus two medleys and liner notes by John D. Loudermilk.

\* \* \* \* \*

A followup to Charley Pride's successful seller "Snakes Crawl At Night" was released this week by RCA Victor Records. Lead side of the single is "Before I Met You" - flip side, "Miller's Cave." Sessions for both sides were produced by Chet Atkins Jack Clement and Bob Ferguson.

\* \* \* \* \*

MGM Records has released "Blues My Name," the sixth LP by 17-year-old Hank Williams Jr. Besides the title song, the album includes "Weary Blues From Waitin'," "Cry, Cry Darlin'," "When You're Tired Of Breaking Others Hearts," and "So Easy To Forgive Her, But so Hard To Forget." Also, "These Boots Are Made For Walking."

\* \* \* \* \*

Veteran show promoter Oscar Davis, partially recovered from a 1963 stroke, was seen on Record Row lately greeting old friends and "holding court" at the Moeller Talent offices.

\* \* \* \* \*

A 30% increase in talent booked this year is noted by Jack Andrews, Moeller Talent VP, as compared to a like period a year ago. He believes the increase is due to (1) a larger demand for live performances at outdoor fairs and amusement parks; (2) increased popularity of Country Music in European countries and U.S. metropolitan areas due to radio and TV exposure and (3) the resurgence of buying territories which were at one time considered to be minor markets but now purchase Country Music on a major scale annually.



The joke was on the joker Friday, the 13th of May, at Archie Campbell's RCA Victor recording session, when session sidemen turned up with two black cats, a step ladder and an open umbrella as "good luck" props for Campbell's crooning. Shown here are Boots Randolph and Archie with tiny feline friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Duke of Paducah" was featured in a full-page ad in the June 30 issue of TV Guide, sponsored by the United Furniture Store in Huntington, W. Va., which is also sponsoring The Duke in a TV show July 5.

\* \* \* \* \*

Next in line to release the Tom T. Hall song, "Billy Christian" is England's popular swingin' group, "The Fadin' Colours." The Nashville based Newkeys song was originally recorded by Shirlee Hunter on the Tower label followed by the Statler Bros.' version on Columbia and others including Capitol's Jean Shepard.

\* \* \* \* \*

Guitarist Shirl Milete, from Salt Lake City, has moved to Nashville to become a full time member of "The Waylors," backup group for RCA Victor's Waylon Jennings. Milete has worked part-time with The Waylors before and is credited with teaching Jennings his unique guitar style.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Singing Ranger," Hank Snow, is celebrating his 30th anniversary on the RCA Victor label, his 17th year with The Grand Ole Opry, and 17th year with Moeller Talent agency. The Canadian native cut his first Victor record in 1936, "The Prison Cowboy" b/w "The Lonesome Blue Yodler" in an old church in Montreal. It didn't sell, and his first seller of consequence came 16 years later, the legendary "I'm Moving On."

\* \* \* \* \*

Newly released by Monument is Billy Walker's single, "A Million and One," penned by Yvonne DeVaney of Silverstein Music, b/w "Close To Linda," a Fred Foster tune of Combine Music.



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Anthony Dejon, VP of Sioux Records, announced the signing of Al "Porky" Witherow and the Pioneers to a long term contract. The initial single, "Waiting For The Show To Go On" b/w "Please Sign The Picture" was released early in June. Both tunes were penned by the popular country bandleader in collaboration with Wally Weber, talented bassman of the group. Best known record of artist to date is "Just Call Me Lonely."

\* \* \* \* \*



Hank Williams Jr. "tore down the house" at The Grand Ole Opry when he made his first guest appearance in nearly a year and sang "Standing In The Shadows" for the first time. Photo shows Hank Jr. on the stage his father helped make famous, rendering the tune he wrote and dedicated to his Dad's memory.

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Johnny Cash Show" with Johnny, the Statler Bros. and June Carter will feature RCA Victor's Waylon Jennings as guest when they play the Melody Fair Music Tent in Buffalo, N.Y. June 20-25. They are preceded by Harry Belafonte and followed by Jack Benny.

\* \* \* \* \*

Recent releases of George Morgan and The Hill-rollers, with Jimmy Sacca as featured vocalist, include "No Man Should Hurt As Bad As I Do" and "The Hurt."

\* \* \* \* \*

Johnny Wright and Kitty Wells took a week's vacation in Daytona Beach, Florida recently, "mostly driving up and down the waterfront in a rented convertible looking at other people for a change."



For his 20 years in the Country Music field, CMA awarded A.V. "Bam" Bamford a citation, presented onstage during the K-BER Grand Ole Opry show May 8 in San Antonio. Leroy Van Dyke is presenting the award to Mr. Bamford.

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Back Pocket Money Man," Jimmy Newman, is evidently making his mark during his tour in Germany—booked for a month, it has been extended for another week.

\* \* \* \* \*

Little Richie Johnson reported several hits for the month of May—singles including Webb Pierce, Chuck Wood, Janet McBride, Vern Stovall, Sheb Wooley, Clyde Beavers, Tony Douglas, and Johnny Darnell. DJs needing copies may write Little Richie Johnson, Box 3, Belen, New Mexico 87002.

\* \* \* \* \*

Del Reeves is back in the studio to etch a new United Artists album. Del's "Getting Any Feed for Your Chickens" is currently popping into the country charts. The new LP will carry the same title.

\* \* \* \* \*

Musicor Records, currently enjoying it's strongest singles showing in months, has put its two key promo men on the road to keep the action building on current hits and on brand new items just now being released. The new duo of Gene Pitney and Melba Montgomery appear to have another single winner with "Being Together." Don Adams, a member of George Jones' band, also has his first Musicor disc as a solo singer. It's entitled "Heartaches Morning, Noon and Night."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Edward Mackall, Box 55, Negley, Ohio, is grand prize winner in WWVA Radio's recent Top Value Sweepstakes. Her prize is 500,000 Top Value trading stamps valued at \$1,200.00. At the time she heard her name announced, Mrs. Mackall was ironing at home and listening to WWVA. She said she had submitted only 10 postcard entries (WWVA received a total of 45,372 entries from 331 counties in 29 states) and plans to use her stamps for "something for my children...and I may fix up the patio."

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



"Back in the saddle again!"—The Duke of Paducah beats out "If You Knew Suzie" to the delight of a jam-packed Grand Ole Opry House. Duke's guest appearance, his second in 19 years, coincided with the week of his 65th birthday and brought a standing ovation from the audience.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hank Williams Jr. celebrated his 17th birthday in May by heading for New York City where he left for a 35-day European tour with his band, "The Cheatin' Hearts." He will have PAs in Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Heidelberg, Germany, and a series of engagements in England.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Harden Trio, one of C/M's fastest rising young acts, were guest entertainers at the Young American Festival in Huntington, W. Va. June 10-12. The Columbia Records threesome performed with SSgt. Barry Sadler of RCA Victor. They also shared the spotlight in Louisville the week of the Kentucky Derby.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was truly Friday the Thirteenth for Roulette recording artist George Kent, enroute to appear in Wisconsin, stopped by a club he had worked the previous week to visit some fellow C/M artists. On returning to his car, found that someone had made off with his stage boots and several suits. The thieves, apparently not musically inclined, left behind his guitar and briefcase full of songs!

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Stromatt, personal secretary to Johnny Wright and Kitty Wells, is the proud new mother of Timothy Wayne Stromatt, 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Gingham Girl Flour and Jet Star TV Productions, sponsor and producer, respectively, of "The Stoneman" syndicated TV show, surprised Pop Stoneman with a party honoring his 73rd birthday at the Rivoli Club. The event, on May 25, makes him probably the oldest living recording artist in the field of Country Music, and possibly in the world of show business. Highlight of the party was a huge Gingham-checked birthday cake topped with the full number of candles.

\* \* \* \* \*

Six C/M acts have been booked for the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville on August 22. Appearing in the 3:30 and 8:00 P.M. grand stand performances will be Faron Young and The Deputies, Waylon Jennings and The Waylors, Dottie West, Grandpa and Ramona Jones, Carl & Pearl Butler, and Ben Smather and The Stoney Mountain Cloggers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wilma Burgess must have really worked hard during her recent tour of her home state. She closed at St. Petersburg, Fla.'s Joyland Club with a mild case of laryngitis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mel Tillis is taking advantage of balmy Nashville weather to practice his first love. He recently topped off a fishing trip with eleven bass — the biggest one five pounds! His usual angling pal is Shorty Lavender.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bill Anderson and The Carter Family just wound up a seven day tour of Canada's Maritine Provinces. Bill reports enough mechanical trouble with his bus to warrant buying a new one. The next one will have a built-in TV set, an idea he got from Kitty Wells.

\* \* \* \* \*

Impresario Gene Nash predicts a great increase in the demand for the talents of Johnny Sea as the result of his recording of "Day For Decision."

\* \* \* \* \*



Judy Lynn and her group—including her manager-husband and hairdresser, are pictured filling out the many forms necessary to obtain passports for forthcoming trip to Sweden in August.

\* \* \* \* \*



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Apparently Hugh X. Lewis' fascination with lush arrangements is beginning to pay off. Kapp Records says Hugh's "I'm Losing You I Can Tell" is a metropolitan hit.

\* \* \* \* \*

The "Uptown" polish of Leroy Van Dyke's road act is very satisfying to producer Gene Nash. Leroy's tour appearances are not only written; they are choreographed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Johnny Sea only had about 24 hours at home between wrapping up his "Day of Decision" album and plane takeoff for Germany. He will be overseas a full month.

\* \* \* \* \*

Charlie Walker is taking a much deserved rest in Montana before returning to Las Vegas' Golden Nugget for the *tenth* time.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Navy Relief Festival in Corpus Christi, Tex. featured Charlie Louvin on June 17. While there he was interviewed on station KROB.

\* \* \* \* \*

The most recent major entry by a record label into the Country Music market was jointly announced by Bob Shwartz, president of Laurie Records, N.Y., and Bill Denny, head of Cedarwood Publishing. The two companies signed contracts which enable Laurie to enter the C/W field immediately. Cedarwood's Dollie label will be reactivated and become the new Country wing of Laurie. Contracts call for a minimum of 25 records per year by Dollie for Laurie to be distributed nationally by Laurie. Founded in 1958, New York based Laurie Records has primarily associated itself with pop music and is undergoing a tremendous expansion program. In addition to its entry into the Country market, Laurie has become involved in movie sound tracks and comedy recordings. "We've had our eye on the Country Music market for about the last eight months. We couldn't be more pleased or excited about the possibilities inherent in this arrangement and intend to do all we can to make Laurie a force to reckon with in the future, especially as far as Country Music is concerned," said Bob Shwartz.

\* \* \* \* \*

Services were held recently at Nashville's Mt. Olive Cemetery for William Morris West, Sr., who died of a heart attack at his home. He was the father of Bill West, who with wife Dottie, makes regular appearances as a member of The Grand Ole Opry.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the field of public relations, Rex Allen is now representing Gross Tailors of Denver; Tony Lama Boots of El Paso; and Resistol Hats of Garland, Tex.

\* \* \* \* \*

Total TV stations carrying "The Stonemans" show is up to 15, according to Gene Goforth of Jet Star TV productions. New additions are WLKY-TV in Louisville; WTOG-TV in Savannah; WATE-TV in Knoxville; and WBTW-TV in Florence, S.C.

\* \* \* \* \*

Two authentic American pastimes—baseball and Country Music—combined forces June 18 when Faron Young, Waylon Jennings and The Wailors and Norma Jean entertained at St. Louis' new Busch Memorial Stadium prior to the St. Louis Cardinal-Philadelphia Phillies baseball game. The idea of using Country music as a pre-game entertainment was conceived by Hap Peebles and Dick Wagoner (Cardinal's promotion director). At the end of a 45-minute music format, the national anthem was sung by Faron Young.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Duke of Paducah was booked for seven consecutive nights in Montreal's new Country Palace June 20-26. The 7-day engagement will call for 21 appearances by the 65-year-old comic.

\* \* \* \* \*

Grand Ole Opry regulars Grandpa Jones and Porter Wagoner were celebrity attractions at this year's third national Dreamer Rally, sponsored by Dreamer pickup coaches, at Beech Bend Park, Bowling Green, Ky. July 20-23. Jones was named official "coachmaster" and presided over rally activities that attracted approximately 4000 Dreamer camper fans from across the nation. Porter and The Wagonmasters provided entertainment Friday night, July 22.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Texas, where "bigness" counts, C/M's "smallest drink of water," Little Jimmy Dickens, will be the toast of the town June 30-July 2 when he headlines the city's 26th annual Williamson County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo. The diminutive dynamo will ride in the parade Thursday, June 30, and will entertain each night of the rodeo, with an extra performance following the final session Saturday night at the Georgetown Community Building in the city's San Gabriel Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

When Local No. 368 A.F. of M. Musician's Union called an impromptu strike for the Memorial Day holiday weekend affecting the Reno and Lake Tahoe area, Judy Lynn was informed that any acts that went on would be automatically expelled from the Union and fined. Miss Lynn, who has not missed a performance since she formed her show some 12 years ago, gave them notice that she and her entire group would be on stage at show time, regardless of what happened . . . and sure enough, she was. Then, several of the alternating acts followed suit. Sarah Vaughan and Patti Page (who was appearing at the Spark's Nugget Circus Room) went on and sang without any backup music. However, none of the other acts at Harold's Club, the Spark's Nugget, or Harrah's—Lake Tahoe, went on and consequently the lounges remained dark for the three day weekend. To protect Judy Lynn, Harrah's Club then obtained a restraining order. The Judy Lynn show closed their three-week engagement at Harrah's Reno June 1 and moved on to Harrah's Lake Tahoe where they appeared for the following three weeks.

\* \* \* \* \*

George Jones and the Jones Boys are slated for Onsted, Mich. at "Frontier City," for July 17. George will also be included in an Atlanta, Ga. package for November 6, which will include Porter Wagoner, Sonny James and Dottie West.

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Western star Rex Allen signed a contract for a personal appearance on August 25-27 for the 101 Ranch Rodeo, Ponca City, Oklahoma. This is his first appearance at this rodeo and he will be accompanied by his musical trio, the "Men of the West."

\* \* \* \* \*

On a recent appearance on the WWVA Jamboree, the "father" of bluegrass music, Bill Monroe, was presented a document from Gov. Breathitt of Kentucky proclaiming Bill a Kentucky Colonel. Presentation was made on stage by Jamboree director Lee Sutton.

\* \* \* \* \*

Billy Walker is probably the biggest fan Batman has. "I should be," he explains, "I had a monopoly on the masked entertainer routine 16 years ago, long before Adam West came on the scene." He was referring to the time when, just out of high school, he was touring the Southwest with a C/M group which signed on with the Big D Jamboree in Dallas. He was billed as "The Masked Singer of Folk Songs" and appeared each week in a different guise imitating top singers of the day, such as Hank Williams, Eddy Arnold and George Morgan. The attraction went over so well that when the Jamboree had the big unveiling (or rather unmasking), people came from miles around to see who the masked singer really was. The result of the enterprise was a recording contract for Billy and from then on was billed as "The Travelin' Texan" - no longer the area's "Batman."

\* \* \* \* \*

Bill Anderson is releasing an album titled "I Love You Drops" in honor of his latest composition and single release. Bill was lucky enough to get pop music covers on the tune by Vic Dana and Don Cherry but had the country coverage all to himself. He is grateful to lovely Connie Smith these days for insuring him another BMI award. Bill could paper a wall with the awards his potent pen has gotten him lately.

\* \* \* \* \*

Both George Jones and Melba Montgomery have recorded sacred song albums for the Musicor label. George's effort is titled "Old Brush Arbors" and Melba's is "Hallelujah Road."

\* \* \* \* \*

Skeeter Davis is credited with helping to make Eddy Arnold's smash Carnegie Hall appearance a huge success. Skeeter wowed the Uptown Audience with her standard "End Of The World." She scored again with "These Boots Are Made For Walking."

\* \* \* \* \*

Hubert Long, just back from Germany, reports that Ferlin Husky brought in some of the biggest crowds ever to gather for a country performance at a U. S. German base. Husky appeared with Marvis and Orlo Thompson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Skeeter Davis and the Glasers recently motored to Crossville, Tenn. to appear in a new movie, "The Country Boy." The show stars TV's Randy Boone.

\* \* \* \* \*

Roy Drusky is trying to think of a good name for the band he recently formed to accompany him on his road performances. One of the band members will dress up in a girl costume to do "Yes Mr. Peters" with Roy.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of Music City's lowest scoring golfers is shooting high with his latest RCA Victor release, "Golf, Golf, Golf." The new single features Archie Campbell bemoaning the fate of the henpecked husband whose wife resents being a "golf-widow." Flip side, "Mommy's Little Angel" is a continuation of the parent-child theme popularized by Campbell with "The Men In My Little Girl's Life."

\* \* \* \* \*

Kathy Dee and The Country Music Gents (Jack Turner and Tom Donahue) who recently teamed up for a 4-week tour of Greenland, are returning this week and will part company, Kathy to Los Angeles and the Gents to Philadelphia, both for recording sessions. The combination worked so well in Greenland that tentative plans are for Kathy to work with The Gents in the Fall.

\* \* \* \* \*

May was a busy month for that special delivering bird—the stork. A boy was born to Rexine Allen Loday, making Rex Allen a grandpa for the second time.

\* \* \* \* \*

Charlie Walker, Wilma Burgess and Jim Edward Brown were guests on the big WWVA Jamboree June 11, along with regulars Mac Wiseman, Johnny Dollar, Yodelin' Kenny Roberts, the Stanley Brothers, Darnell Miller, Lee Moore, Crazy Elmer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Kenny Roberts traveled to Nashville recently to record for Starday, and while there was a guest on The Grand Ole Opry.

\* \* \* \* \*

Opry performers learned the difference in stage makeup and color TV makeup during the film sessions for the first eight installments of the peacock-hued Grand Ole Opry TV show. Jo Coulter's make-up people had to keep a watchful eye on several of the men—they kept thrusting their artificially tanned hands into their pockets; naturally, the makeup left a trail around their pockets. The eight program segment featured The Carlisles, Jimmy Newman, Connie Smith, Jim Brown, Wilma Lee, Stony Cooper & The Wilburns. They went to print on June 5.

\* \* \* \* \*

An autograph-seeker named Johnson made Hank Williams Jr.'s May 27 performance at Washington's Constitution Hall one of the most memorable nights of his life. The scene took place backstage at the famous auditorium prior to his performance when Lynda Bird Johnson, daughter of the President, sought him out, Secret Service agent in tow, and requested that he autograph his latest album, "Blues My Name," which she owned and had with her. A 10 minute conversation ensued after the signing during which Lynda revealed her interest in Country Music and that she was a fan of both father and son.

\* \* \* \* \*

The largest crowd in the history of the Coral Bar, E. Patterson, N. J., turned out to hear Hank Williams Jr. and The Cheatin' Hearts May 28. After the show, well-wishers and friends attended a "bon voyage" party to kick off the group's impending tour of Germany, England and Ireland.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Johnny Wright-Kitty Wells Show appeared in Canada for a 15-day tour in June.

\* \* \* \* \*



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

Quentin "Reed" Welty has been appointed station manager of WWST and WWST-FM in Wooster, Ohio. He has been general sales manager for the Dix Radio stations for 15 years and the Wooster outlets are part of the Dix chain. Welty has worked in Country music since the '50's as a publisher and producer through his B-W Music, Inc. He is a life member of CMA and NARAS, and will continue his publishing and management activities in addition to his new position.

\* \* \* \* \*

Music Row punsters don't kid Red Sovine about the color of his hair anymore—his locks have just landed him an appearance on Carl Smith's Country Music Hall, which is filming, for the first time, in color. The Toronto-based video tape innovation doesn't restrict guest shots to blondes or redheads, however—they have also had Roy Drusky and Felin Husky.

\* \* \* \* \*

After a year's absence, songwriter Benny Joy has rejoined staff at Cedarwood Publishing Co. He has written such hits as "Help Me Up Darling," "Big Old Ugly Fool," "Why Do I Keep Doing This To Us" and "We'd Destroy Each Other."

\* \* \* \* \*



Color combinations are a major consideration for Opry folks in Nashville, now that WSM is video taping the show in color for syndication. Prior to its first color taping May 12, Jud Collins, show emcee (right) and Roy Acuff give Dottie West a man's advice on the proper shade to wear.

\* \* \* \* \*

Western star Rex Allen narrates and sings in the Walt Disney featurette, "Run, Appaloosa, Run," soon to be released. The film was produced and directed by Larry Lansburgh and written by Janet Lansburgh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. & Mrs. A. Torio of Japan were recent guests of the Chet Atkins in Nashville. Mr. Torio is A&R chief of the RCA Record Dept. of the Victor Co. of Japan in Tokyo and entertained Atkins and an RCA troupe of entertainers when they performed in the East.

\* \* \* \* \*

A specially-concocted "Little Jimmy Dickens Road Show" has been assembled to work this summer's fair and park circuit in July, August and September. The package will consist of Dickens, The Homesteaders and Jenny Clay, and so far 30 of the 90 mid-summer dates have been sold.



Wizard Records have new releases out: Kay Arnold "Mommy, What's a Honky Tonk Woman"; Lenore Ellyn "Merry Go Round"; Jack Boles "Walking In High Cotton"; Kendall Hayes "Gone to the Country"; and Vince Roberts "Long Lonesome Road Home." DJs needing copies may write on station letterhead to Wizard Records, Ste. 202, RCA Victor Bldg., 806 17th Avenue South, Nashville, Tenn.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nashville's red-hot Stoneman Family act has been joined by two more members—Mom Stoneman, mother of 23 children (13 of whom are living), moved here from Maryland to take up residence with 72-year-old Pop. Although accomplished on the banjo, fiddle and guitar, she will forego group performances until the relocation has been completed. Scotty, a son, will rejoin the group at "The Black Poodle" bringing the act to seven members. He is "National Champion Fiddler" and has been on leave of absence.

\* \* \* \* \*

RCA Victor entertainer Waylon Jennings and the Waylors have been booked for two weeks as featured act in Las Vegas at The Golden Nuggett July 28 to August 10.

\* \* \* \* \*

# ROY ROGERS

# AND

# DALE

# EVANS



By **TEXAS JIM COOPER**

Beautiful and talented Dale Evans and her handsome husband, "King of the Cowboys" Roy Rogers, have kept one code: Faith, Hope and Charity—a daily practice of their lives through the years and through supreme sorrow and success.

The Rogers' family has known personal tragedy more than most of us find, or expect, in one lifetime. In 1946 Roy's first wife Arlene died a month after giving birth to Roy Junior, affectionately known as Dusty. The Ohio-born singer, who had started his career in Show business as one of the Sons of the Pioneers in the early thirties, chose Dale, his leading lady on screen, to be his leading lady in real life and new mother to son Dusty and Roy's adorable daughters Cheryl (adopted), and Linda Lou. In 1950 Robin Elizabeth was born to Dale and Roy—a retarded child greatly loved and cherished by the couple. Two years later sweet little Robin was called to her reward, leaving a heartbreaking emptiness in the Rogers home. Then, into their lives came a ray of joy in the person of Mary Little Doe, a perky little Choctaw Indian, now

*Roy Rogers, "King Of The Cowboys," and his leading lady and wife, Dale Evans, in an early pose.*

known as Dody, adopted from a Dallas orphanage in 1952.

Four years later Dale and Roy spotted a Korean War orphan, loveable Debbie Lee, who became an adored member of the family circle. But in 1964 when Debbie was 12, she was fatally injured in the wreck of a bus returning from a trip to give aid to a Mexican orphanage. And again, grief veiled the Rogers Ranch.

Roy grieved for several months before he made public the news that his friend and comrade of 90 Republic Pictures films, 33-year-old Trigger, had died during the summer of 1965. The 1100 pound animal, billed as "the Smartest Horse in Movies," was purchased in 1938, and together horse and master grossed an eventual \$30 million a year.

While serving in the American armed forces in Germany, son John David (Sandy) Rogers died of illness at 18 years of age. He was adopted by the Rogers in 1952.





*The Rogers Family—Roy, Dusty, Dale, Dody, and Debbie.*

53-year-old Roy himself has been under doctors' care for several years and has been forced to take life easier.

Through the shadows of sadness, the Rogers have taken ever-lasting courage from knowing, as Dale says, "through faith that God has a purpose" even in those events of tribulation and sorrow. As evidence of their constant crusade of faith, Roy and Dale often appear before groups as Christian witnesses. As a tender acknowledgement to faith, hope, and charity, Roy will often sing the sacred song, "Peace In The Valley," while the arena spotlights form the shape of a cross.

The abundant faith, hope and charity of Dale Evans is beautifully clear in her writing. Proceeds from best seller *ANGEL UNAWARE*, the story of Robin, and a later work, *DEAREST DEBBIE*, are donated, respectively, to the National Association for Retarded Children and to charities for world orphans. Dale, who has written other spiritually inspiring books and articles, will continue her writing as a testimonial to God and her magnificent faith.

In contrast to personal tragedies, the Rogers' pro-

fessional life has been filled with success and good fortune. For Dale life started in Uvalde, Texas, where she was born in 1912. Later as a young lady, she worked as a stenographer and radio singer in Dallas, eventually taking a position as vocalist for a traveling band which brought her to Hollywood.

Although Dale did not ride at that time, the 5'3" Texas beauty with the schoolgirl complexion soon learned the art, and in 1945 was cast in her first role opposite Roy Rogers, Republic's stalwart Western star, who had learned from actual experience in New Mexico the life and work of a ranch cowboy. Dale did well as "Queen of the West" in 38 Rogers Westerns. She was soon recognized as the screen's No. 1 female Western star, and in 1947, 1949, 1950 and 1952 was voted by *Motion Picture Herald* as one of Hollywood's top ten money-making stars.

For 12 years in a row Roy was ranked the top Western star by *Motion Picture Herald*. Later, his weekly television serial became one of the favorites on the small screen. Merchandise with the Rogers' name or endorsement has been sold into the millions of dollars. Dale Evans : Roy Rogers : Trigger comic





*Roy Rogers & the late Trigger, his horse.*



*The late GABBY HAYES, for years a comedy sidekick with Rogers in the movies.*



*Roy Rogers in an early still with the late Trigger, his famous horse.*



*Dale Evans, Texas Beauty.*

books have sold at the rate of 25 million annually. Success has been so good for America's No. 1 rodeo team that Roy can afford \$10,000 a year for Western attire. It is obvious that Roy possesses highly developed business acumen.

There have been some setbacks, however. Roy has not made a movie since 1959 and the United States Supreme Court ruled against him in an appeal to win some television rights to some 80 studio-controlled Rogers films.

Roy and Dale have been honored many times in various ways—in 1965 they received the International Christian Youths Distinguished Service Citation in recognition of their active benefit work. They were

the first dual recipients and the first from show business to be so honored. The same year Dale was named by International Christians Association and by International Orphans, Inc. as "Woman of the Year." In January of this year she was named "Texan of the Year" by the Texas Press Association—"the highest honor newsmen of Texas bestow upon another native of the Lone Star State." Dale is the only show business personality to be named "Lady of Camelot" by Round Table International. She is a sponsor of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch at Amarillo. Roy has been made an honorary life member of Knights of Columbus. And the couple were the first recipients of the American Legion citation for contribution wholesome entertainment in 1965.

They have recorded a number of best-selling religious and juvenile albums, as well as numerous hit albums of Country & Western music. One of Dale's most notable hits, "Aha San Antonio!" is one that she herself wrote and one that has sold more than a quarter of a million copies.



To Country & Western Music, Dale gives tribute, "I think that Country and Western and Standard Folk Music is about as American as you can get. I love it because it is American and part of our tradition."

Dale and Roy are good people. Roy is universally loved for his manly spirit, his fine voice and for being the epitome of the Western cowboy hero. Dale's blue-green eyes sparkle with kindness and her smile tells of the sincere and friendly spirit within. Both are admired for their professional success, and respected for their strength in facing the trials and sorrows of fate with divine awareness.

With Faith, Hope, and Charity, these two fine Americans have proved to be assets to the world and in so doing, have brought immense honor to Country and Western Music.



# ELVIS RECORDS IN NASHVILLE

By RUTH CHARON

Have you ever wondered if the well-meaning publicity folks get sort of carried away when exploiting the glamour and excitement that surrounds the world of Elvis Presley? I know I have . . . so after five years of covering all the major Country Music events and rubbing elbows with most of the greats in the music industry, I decided to find out for myself. No one questions that the talent is there—a great talent—but never having been to one of his stage shows, I'd sort of wondered if he hadn't been colored up a little bit on the movie screen. Can anyone human really be that terrific? Since he is human, he must have some faults, but far be it from me to look for them anymore!

Having always respected his desire for privacy when working, my curiosity finally got the best of me. He'd been recording here for three days, and at 1:00 in the morning I decided to go down to RCA for an interview. So leaving the Grand Ole Opry, I drove to the studio. I was amazed to find (at that late hour) at least 50 teenagers — anxious but orderly — milling around the back door — just waiting for a glimpse. I overheard one of the girls say, "I'll probably have to stay at home for the next two weeks after staying out this late, my folks will be so mad, but it's worth risking their wrath—just to see him *one more time*." Another teenager told me Elvis had come out to talk with them around 8:00 p.m. and he had made such a hit with them they were still there — running back and forth — keeping all three doors covered to make sure they didn't miss him.

Teenagers weren't the only ones in the crowd waiting to see Elvis. I noticed several well known Opry musicians there, too. A delightfully impish 10-year-old (accompanied by his parents) seemed to take great delight in teasing the girls—shouting, "There he is!" The air was electric with excitement . . . I was impressed. Nashville policemen were stationed all around the building and only a select few, directly involved with the closed session were permitted inside.

Inside, perched on their stools, sat the well known Nashville musicians, and of course the Jordannaires—and Boots Randolph. These boys, like a good luck charm to Elvis, must be at all his sessions. Pete Drake, whom you all know as a great artist, was there with his steel guitar. You'd think after days of recording — sometimes 12 hours straight — Elvis' would wear out. But long hours of recording don't bother him. His secret of resting is apparently the way he paces his numbers. He'll do an up-tempo number . . . then maybe a gospel, or a slow ballad . . . then there's always sandwiches, coffee, cokes and snacks for everybody that's "in." He seems to enjoy every minute of this task that has made him famous.

Is he a perfectionist? Why does it take so long to record Elvis? He *is* a perfectionist only in getting his own sound — the sound he wants—the sound he feels, regardless of how long it takes (the normal



session time is three hours). Strange as it may seem, he is even better after ten years of this grueling pace of recording. Elvis' ability extends into many fields of music, not just rock 'n roll because of his versatility. As a prime example, just listen to his rendition of a gospel song!

The session is over and the musicians carry their instruments out the back door. The teenagers know that Elvis will soon be out when they see Larry and the other body guards approach the long black station wagon. I was interested in hearing them talk to the body guards as if they knew them. One said, "Well, Larry, we'll see you again in February." Larry, puzzled, asked, "How did you find out we were to be back then? That was supposed to be a well guarded secret." But somehow or other these kids seem to have their own way of keeping "in-the-know" where Elvis is concerned.

I wanted to shake hands with Elvis and thank him, but I knew I had to do it before he got out into the crowd. As I was saying goodbye and shaking hands with this magnetic and wonderful person, someone opened the door and the screams and excitement of the waiting teenagers told me I had better get out of the way. As the doors closed on the station wagon, I heard several girls say to the driver, "Please take good care of him!"

And where did he go to relax? The nearest drive-in, of course, where he treated the crowd to hamburgers. Another night, he rented a roller rink and went skating. Elvis' naturally friendly nature draws people to him, but there are times when everybody likes to enjoy the simple things. Unfortunately, when Elvis wants to do the things we take for granted, he has to rent an entire building.

After meeting Elvis Presley for the first time, I can honestly say *he is* just as warm, glamorous and every bit as magnetic as he has been billed. He really sold me. *Why wasn't I born fifteen years later?*

# THE INCREDIBLE

# ERNEST TUBB

By NORMA BARTHEL

Part of the inscription on Ernest Tubb's recently won *Hall of Fame* plaque from the Country Music Association reads, "To his millions of fans he has become a legend. Their love is boundless." I like to think that I am a living example of this truth. For, having headed up the International Ernest Tubb Fan Club for the past 21 years, I have devoted more than half my life to E. T. and his fans. Of course, I'm not the only one, but I am using myself as an example of our devotion to Ernest — a loyalty well known in the Country Music field.

People often ask me if I ever get tired of so much Ernest Tubb, but to me and to his legion of fans all over the world, there is no such thing as too much Ernest Tubb.

I first learned the true feeling Ernest has for his fans when I started our E.T. Fan Club in early 1945. I didn't know him until I started the club, but his first letter to me was filled with thanks for the interest I had taken in him and his career. I learned right then that you can't out-give Ernest Tubb. He invited me to visit him and his family—to see the Grand Ole Opry—and did his utmost to show me a good time. He felt that my work would be easier if I could get to know them all, and it was. Of course, all expenses were to be on him, even before he knew what kind of person I was — what I looked like — or how I would act, but it didn't matter to him. Since then, I have had the big pleasure of helping him quite a bit, but he has always managed to help me much more. And, actually, it has never been what I've done — but the fact that I've stayed behind him faithfully these many years. That means the most to him and this is the way he feels toward us all.

"E.T.," as he is called by many fans now, never forgets his own humble beginning. He is equally at ease with the most famous figures of the entertainment world, and with the poorest of his fans and friends. He takes pride in buying the best clothes for his wife, Olene, and loves to show her off. But fans dressed in cotton prints and \$3 shoes get the same respect and courtly treatment. To him, we are all the same wonderful people, and we make up his world. His wife, incidentally, was a fan just like the rest of us when he met her.

As is the case with most successful artists, Ernest Tubb earned his fame the hard way, and believes he never would have made it at all without the help and encouragement of the late Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers. As a young man in San Antonio, Texas, he was working in a drug store and riding a bicycle to the radio station early every morning to sing and play his guitar for 15 minutes. He was then trying to sound like his idol, Jimmie Rodgers, and doing a pretty good job of it,

right down to the high yodels. He came to the attention of Mrs. Rodgers and the first thing she did was to encourage him to develop a style of his own, for she knew that he couldn't get far as a carbon copy of J.R. His voice grew deeper and soon he was singing in his own inimitable way. Mrs. Rodgers did a great deal for him, and most of all, she never lost faith in his ability to become a great singing star in his own right.

Although Ernest Tubb has been a big name in Country Music for many years, he still doesn't realize that he is a *star*, and never ceases to be surprised at the loyalty of his fans. Last year we in the E.T. Fan Club raised enough money (\$1,000) to purchase a block with his name on it to be placed in the famous "Walkway of Stars" in the Country Music Association building in Nashville. No other fan club had ever been successful in such a project, and I was told that it simply couldn't be done. "People won't donate their hard earned dollars for something like that for anyone who makes the money that Ernest Tubb does," they told me. But I replied that they should never underestimate Ernest Tubb fans — and stuck to my guns. So many fans had told me they wished there was a way they could show Ernest how much his records meant to them and to thank him for the many hours of enjoyment he had brought. What could be more permanent and appropriate than a block in CMA's "Walkway of Stars" as a symbol of their devotion and gratitude?

The project did take a lot of work, but we raised every cent on our own and although Ernest could have written a check for \$1,000 a lot easier than we did, it now stands as testimony of the love of people all over the country for a wonderful man and singer. He was very touched and said, "I would never have dreamed that this would happen to any living entertainer—much less to me."

Ernest is very sensitive, and will never slight anyone. The fan he especially appreciates is the one who stands aside and waits patiently for his attention. He notices his audience and will remember a face after only two or three times in a crowd. But he has a hard time with names, so plays it safe by calling the ladies "Honey" and the gentlemen "Son." He always has a friendly handshake for the men and a hug for the gals, and if you get too close you're apt to get a quick kiss. He just loves everybody.

Even if he can't remember names too well, or dates, or who told him what, he has a fantastic memory for the songs he sings. He has recorded well over 300 songs during his 26 years with Decca, and can sing most of them at the drop of a request. The fans never seem to forget an E.T. song and are always asking for "Blue Eyed Elaine," "Our Baby's Book,"









"I'll Get Along Somehow," "Try Me One More Time" and others he recorded back in the early 40's, for instance. And he sings each one they ask for, but I've noticed that he re-writes quite a bit as he goes along, anymore!

A while back I was in the audience when he was singing a favorite of more recent years, "Through That Door," and about halfway through the number his mind went blank as far as the words were concerned, and I watched with interest as he faltered only a second, then began adding lines that were completely foreign to the song, with just a quick glance at me and a little laugh in his voice. Afterward, the boys and I congratulated him on the new version and he just laughed and said, "Those lines did fit in pretty good, didn't they?" He often tells his young



Ernest Tubb and his Texas Troubadours get ready to board their big travel bus. Left to right: Cal Smith, Buddy Charleton, Jack Drake, E.T., Leon Rhodes, Jack Greene and Johnny Wiggins.



Norma Barthel and Ernest Tubb with gifts commemorating her 20th anniversary with the E.T. Fan Club.



Ernest Tubb displaying plaque from his fan club.





*A humble and tearful Ernest Tubb accepts his election to the CMA Hall of Fame October 1965.*

Even after all this time, I am still amazed at his thoughtfulness and generosity. As I said, you can't out-give Ernest Tubb. I don't see how he makes any money at all—he gives away so many records, free passes, tips, etc. Recently a fan wrote me that he had given her five of his Decca albums when she was visiting with him after a performance, but that her two favorite songs were not in any of these albums—so he had told her to write me to send her the other two albums. (I am kept supplied with available albums for DJ's who need them.) As her letter was pointedly specific in its instruction to send the records free and postpaid, I hesitated. Before long, a second letter arrived, roughly insisting that I *owed* her the albums because Ernest had promised them to her. I didn't mention the incident to him; he only would have said, "Well, go ahead and send them anyway. Maybe she will get some enjoyment out of them."

But for every person who takes advantage of him there are a hundred (or more) who buy every record he makes—and they must have a roomful by now; the Ernest Tubb fan is loyal to the core. More than half the membership of the E.T. Fan Club have been in it for most of these 21 years!

There's so much more I could write about this 6 ft.

Texas-born C/M legend – the loyalty of his Texas Troubadours band (perhaps his biggest fans) – the many singers and songwriters he has helped – his pride and joy in his wife and seven children – and particularly, his sincere love for Country Music.

Ernest has always lived by the Golden Rule, and it comes back to him one hundred fold.

For 23 years he has been traveling over 150,000 miles a year with his band making personal appearances; yet, in all this time has had only one major road accident. This was in 1964 when a car ran into the bus, wounding several and killing the driver of the car. Ernest himself received not a scratch. I feel that this amazing record of safety is surely due to the fact that so many thousand E.T. fans the world over never fail to say a prayer for his safety and well-being every night of the year, and thank God for the special privilege of having a person like Ernest Tubb in their lives. That's the feeling of the E.T. fan.

NOTE: E.T.'s latest Decca record is "Til My Getup Has Gotup And Gone" b/w "Just One More." His latest Decca album, "By Request," features songs made known by other artists. He has been a star of the Grand Ole Opry for 23 years and stars in his own TV show, "The Ernest Tubb Show."

*What Makes the*

# **STONEMANS**





# SENSATIONAL?

By FRANK HARRIS

We always perk up our ears when we overhear a discussion of Country Music and Country Artists — and we're always interested in *who* the favorites are and *why*.

In such a conversation the other day we heard one of our favorite groups, The Stonemans, mentioned and were rather surprised to hear Voice No. 1 say, "One of these days I think they'll really go somewhere if they could just get a big record."

We were just about to jump uninvited into the discussion when Voice No. 2 spoke up for us: "If they could get a big record... where you been hidin', man? 'Tupelo County Jail' is one of the hottest things around—on every radio station in the country!"

After talking a few minutes longer, Voice No. 1 excused himself; he had to go buy a copy of "Tupelo County Jail."

The Stonemans themselves are one of the hottest groups around—so hot, in fact, that Nashville residents who previously had never been on Printer's Alley, the city's famous nightclub district, have begun frequenting *The Black Poodle* to see them perform and a TV station in Knoxville recently bumped a network show so that their syndicated show could have prime time.

However, referring to them as a "hot group" is running the risk of overlooking the personalities of The Stonemans individually. We've been fortunate enough to be around them a good bit and we thought our readers would enjoy meeting The Stonemans as individuals.

Pop Stoneman's matter-of-fact innocence enables him, at 73 years old, to get laughs from lines nobody else in the industry could get by with. Truly the Southern Gentleman with an insatiable love for life,

*Patsy Stoneman (center) makes guest appearances from time to time on the family's newly syndicated TV show. Sponsored by Gingham Girl Flour and produced by Gene Goforth of Jet Star TV Production, the show currently is seen in 14 markets including Chicago.*





*Patriarch of The Stoneman clan is Pop, shown at work above with his autoharp. At 73, Pop is the oldest living Country Music recording artist in the world. He and Mom, who recently moved from her Maryland home to join the group in Nashville, had 23 children, 13 of whom are now living.*

Pop adds more to the show with his old songs, dry humor, and the autoharp than one could imagine without watching him work. He does more than provide a contrast to the fiery youthfulness of the others; he symbolizes the traditions upon which the entire act is based.

Donna Stoneman has made the old-line bluegrass artists shake their heads and say they *thought* they had heard fine mandolin pickin' before. Basketball coaches wish they could find a *team* with as much combined energy as she has. Attractive, and so talented she could be a successful single, Donna adds an exuberance and charm that enhances the total teamwork of the group.

"I'm a lazy person by nature," confesses Jimmy Stoneman, "and I would have probably gone into music even if my family had not because I don't like the idea of anything that is work. Playing that bass isn't work to me because I've done it long enough to get used to it—and I enjoy it." Joking aside, Jim works hard toward perfecting The Stonemans' act and contributes a dedication that provides depth and stability.



*Group therapy often involves "hamming it up" offstage as well as on. From left to right, Jerry Monday, Roni, Van, Donna and Jimmy take to the water between appearances recently in Chattanooga.*

When some people say, "That's the funniest girl I've ever seen" . . . and others say, "That girl sure does play a lot of banjo" . . . they are talking about the same person—Roni Stoneman. Her zany sense of humor spares no one in the group, not even herself, and is even subject to being turned loose on a member of the audience. Not a bit plain, as she pretends, Roni convinces everyone that she thoroughly enjoys singing, swinging, and stomping as a Stoneman.

"We're The Stonemans," Emcee Van announces proudly, and he demonstrates his ability in pacing the tightly-knit act with masterful timing and just the right words. His vocal and guitar talents frequently serve as lead parts in the beautiful harmony and instrumental arrangements, and his relaxed manner make for comfortable listening.

"Our Man Friday," as Van refers to Jerry Monday, is the only member of the group who is not a member of the family. Hired to help fill in during Van's recent absence because of an accident, jolly Jerry was kept on to help sing, play Dobro, and harmonica. He played Dobro on the Grand Ole Opry for Johnny Cash, and the love of his life is Country Music.

After a year's leave, brother Scot has recently returned to the performing Stonemans and fiddle fans are getting excited all over again. For nine consecutive years Scotty has held the National Fiddlers' Championship, and many leading pullers of the bow list him as their prime inspiration. His natural showmanship plus unique talent on the fiddle leave listeners with memories of a great show.

Yes you've guessed it; the secret of The Stonemans' success is the proper blending of seven talented individuals into a smooth, well-organized unit.

You don't think that's hard to do? Try it sometime.

## ARTISTS-BOOKERS

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# WILLIE NELSON SAYS

By TEXAS JIM COOPER

"Never!"

Thus replied song stylist-composer Willie Nelson, a 33-year-old native of Abbott, Texas, when asked if he thought Country Western Music might eventually become swallowed up by various forms of popular music.

The medium-sized Texan—he stands about 5'9" and weighs some 160 pounds—added with deep feeling, "I love Country Western Music. It is stronger today than ever before."

This Willie Nelson, now recording for RCA Victor, is the same Willie Nelson who has composed such notable numbers as "Hello Fool," recorded by WSM radio's own Ralph Emery in 1961; "Crazy," recorded by the late Patsy Cline in 1961; "Hello Walls," recorded by Faron Young in 1961; "Three Days," recorded by Young in 1962; "Night Life," recorded by Ray Price in 1962; "She's Not For You," recorded by Carl Smith in 1963; and "Within Your Crowd," recorded by Wade Ray in 1966. Another Nelson composition, "Congratulations," was recorded by Young, while "(Ain't It) Funny How Time Slips Away?," also written by Nelson, was recorded by Billy Walker and Perry Como. In addition, Como recorded Nelson's "My Own Peculiar Way" and Doris Day made a recording of his "Night Life." Willie himself has recorded most, if not all, of his hit compositions, including "Touch Me," "Half A Man," "Mr. Record Man," "The Last Letter," "Darkness On The Face Of The Earth," "Healing Hands Of Time," and "The Family Bible."

Willie Nelson, whose favorite song-writers are Floyd Tillman, Cindy Walker and Roger Miller, is one of the most creative writers in modern C/W music. If he does not complete a song within the half hour that he starts putting the words on paper, the idea is cast aside. He has won five Broadcast Music, Inc. awards for some of those fast-written hits of his and he averages some one dozen compositions a year. Willie, however, does not strive for song speed or quantity, but for song quality.

And when Willie Nelson walks on stage and sings his memorable writings, he holds the receptive audience in the palm of his hands. He is that popular. One of the stars of Ernest Tubb's weekly television show, he is a man who exhibits a calm but effective stage style. Off-stage, the man's quiet charm also prevails. All of these characteristics make the talented young Texan one of today's most capable entertainers. In essence, Willie has, since 1961, become the god-child of stardom.

But that stardom was not easy or quick to come by. For long periods, from Texas to Washington State, Nelson labored as a little-known disc jockey endeavoring to find someone who would realize his writing potential. For a while he sold encyclopedias, but music beckoned him back. Back in Texas, he got a break. He was given a chance to record two songs he had written—"The Storm Has Just Begun" b/w "Man With The Blues." Then he made the move to Nashville—Music City, U.S.A.

Hank Cochran, singer-writer, secured a writing contract for Nelson with Pamper Music (still in effect) and Ray Price and Bobby Sykes gave him working encouragement. Then Faron Young decided to record "Hello Walls," and stardom began for the "gentle Texan." Also at this time, Liberty Records signed him to a recording contract. In 1963 he achieved added glory when he wed a cute Missouri lass—Liberty recording artist Shirley Collie. Willie has since become so successful that Shirley has retired from the recording world. The happy couple live in Nashville now on a farm of 101 acres where they raise hogs, cattle, and chickens.

Wherever Country Western Music flourishes, there also will be compelling composers like the remarkable Texan, Willie Nelson.

## BACK ISSUES

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GEORGE JONES, JUDY LYNN, SONNY JAMES

JANUARY

BUCK OWENS, SKEETER DAVIS, BOBBY BARNETT

MARCH

EDDIE ARNOLD, DOTTIE WEST, JIMMY DICKENS

APRIL

WILBURN BROS., CARL SMITH, ARCHIE CAMPBELL

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# REG LINDSAY

## AUSTRALIA'S TOP COUNTRY MUSIC STAR



Australia's most popular and best known Country & Western singer, Reg Lindsay, is also one of the Commonwealth's busiest men.

A man of varied talents, he is a television and recording star, a radio disc jockey, a songwriter, a promoter, business manager, talent adviser and plays a multiplicity of instruments. He travels thousands of miles every year for his nationwide television shows and personal appearances. Reg is a foundation member of the Country Music Association in Nashville, and has probably recorded more C/W songs than any other Australian. In his albums and singles, he has sung more than 350 numbers, many of them his own compositions.

Reg is a modest six feet with fair hair and blue eyes, and being no stranger to horses and country life, has become a jet age cowboy.

His weekly C/W radio program, originating in Sidney, draws fan mail from as far afield as New Guinea and New Zealand, Kalgoorlie in Western Australia and Tasmania.

On television, "Reg Lindsay's Country & Western Hour" is screened over 21 city and country channels throughout Australia, making it not only the most widely viewed C/W program in the whole of Australia, but giving it stature few Australian TV programs achieve.

All time best selling records have been his recent





*Reg and gang relax during break before taping.*

C/W "sing-along" albums for the giant EMI organization's Columbia label. Early this year he signed up with the Festival recording company.

Only a few years ago, as a youngster of 19, Reg rode a motorcycle 1,000 miles from South Australia to Sydney, a guitar slung over his back, to try to break into the "big time." He had been working as a stockman and often entertained his workmates with singing and yodelling. In Sydney, he entered a radio talent contest — first prize, a recording contract — secretly wondering if a Country & Western singer would have a chance in "the big smoke," a sophisticated city of two million people. The contest spanned a number of weeks and included dozens of entertainers, but the universal appeal of Reg's singing won—in the words of the promoters—"hands down."

"I got such a lump in my throat the night I won that recording contract that I thought I'd never be able to sing again," says Reg.

Before long he was in such demand all over Australia that he decided to start his own touring show, taking his music and many of the nation's top artists in a fleet of well equipped caravans. They traveled more than 50,000 road miles a year. Often there were

one night stands in small outback towns where fans had written pleading with Reg to appear. Farmers and their families came from miles around—sometimes on horseback—to see the shows.

A prolific songwriter, Reg has had four albums of songs published, some recorded by overseas artists. Today the wheel has turned full cycle (if you'll pardon the pun) and every week he flies 800 miles from his home in Sydney to Adelaide to videotape his TV show. On the return flight he often stops off in Melbourne to appear in such shows as Graham Kennedy's "In Melbourne Tonight" and then dashes back to Sydney in time to present his radio show or appear in nightclubs or stage shows.

In spite of his busy schedule, Reg managed to make time recently to tour New Guinea, entertaining for charities and giving concerts for servicemen. In twelve days he arranged and presented 17 three-hour shows, and found it "relaxing and enjoyable."

Last year the 500 residents of Lord Howe Island, regular listeners to his radio program, asked him to give concerts on the island, 400 miles northeast of Sydney. Reg obliged.

As a promoter, Reg organizes packaged shows for



*Star of the Australian TV show, "Reg Lindsay's Country & Western Hour" – Reg Lindsay.*

*Reg and lighting man, Led Oakley.*



*Reg with manager of the television show—Dennis Safe.*

clubs, nightclubs and stage presentations in the Eastern States. His appearance at rodeos has swelled the crowds and many of his TV fans have made their first visit to a rodeo in order to see Reg.

Many of Australia's "pop" and country stars can trace their rise to success to a "break" provided by Reg Lindsay. As a talent manager, he has several up-and-coming C/Wentertainers on his books. Hit parade singer Judy Stone says that Reg—"a real gentleman" gave her her first opportunity and she is indebted to him for his invaluable advice.

Reg is happily married to Country & Western singer Heather McKean, and they have three young children. He doesn't really have time for hobbies, but occasionally does have a free moment to spend in leatherworking, whipcracking, or repairing antique clocks. Now and then he takes his family swimming (he is a former champion).

"A demanding life? Country and Western music has been very good to me and I love it," he says a little self-consciously. "It is one of the most constant forms of music and its fans of all ages are particularly loyal—not given to the fads and changes which continually sweep some other styles of music."

And he says this with a quiet conviction that is obviously sincere.



# WAYLON JENNINGS

## NO REASON TO WAIL!

Fate often acts in peculiar ways. A young bass player for one of the nation's top rock 'n roll groups gave up his plane reservation to a flu-weary entertainer who was anxious to get home for much needed rest. The plane crashed, leaving no survivors, and the bass player became one of the hottest new Country singers of the next decade.

Waylon Jennings has come a long way since the day he learned that boss Buddy Holley was killed in the crash of a plane he had been scheduled to ride. The initial shock set him back emotionally, but he made the transition back to creativity with determination worthy of notice.

Waylon is the kind of singer that causes people to hear the voice, rather than the song. His backup group—The Wailors—have mastered the fine art of teamwork to the end result that Moeller Talent, Inc., has an entertainment gold mine in this quiet, dark-haired boy from Texas.

His recent change of residence to Music City was noted and anticipated by many of the most influential people in town, all of whom have become big Waylon fans.

Johnny Cash includes a hilarious good-natured jibe at Waylon in his recent album, commenting, "Sparkle, sparkle, little twink, Waylon's the greatest star I think." Chet Atkins thought so last year and signed him to an RCA Victor recording contract. Harlan Howard, Don Bowman, Tex Ritter and Jack Clement are among the many Record Row personalities heralding the merits of this talented lad. Everyone is impressed by his dedication to Country Music and by his real humility. This boy is putting on no front—he's just singing.

Putting out three hits on his first three releases for a major label is no minor feat—and Waylon is proving that he's fully capable of keeping the place at the top he's making for himself.



One of Waylon's staunchest supporters is hit-maker Harlan Howard (left). He, Chet Atkins, Lucky Moeller and Jack Clement urged Waylon to make the permanent move to Music City.



Anita Carter (left) and Jan Howard, two of four voices backing Waylon at a recent Victor session, rehearse a verse with "the boss." Note flower on microphone—a Jennings gesture to put the girls at ease.



By FRANK HARRIS

Country Music has always had countless family acts, and some authorities have expressed opinions that no vocal combinations, from the standpoint of harmony, are better than the blending of voices which were raised singing together.

From The Delmore Brothers down through The Louvin Brothers, The Browns, and The Glazer Brothers, family acts have proved repeatedly that the best place to learn Country Music is at home.

Out of Arkansas has come a hot new addition to the Country acts most in demand — The Harden Trio—further proof of the quality of home-learned Country harmony.

Bobby Harden is a song writer of unusual ability and the tremendous sales success of "Tippy-Toeing" which he recorded along with sisters Robbie and Arlene, indicate that there is enough talent among the Hardens to keep them in the forefront for a long, long time. In fact, on their many personal appearances, variety is woven into the show by the use of solos by each of the three and by different duet combinations.

Therefore, it shouldn't come as a surprise if at some time in the future Bobby, Arlene and Robbie all gain individual recognition in the recording field.

However, The Harden Trio is essentially a group act and their approach to Country Music, by hitting the happy medium between individual ability and teamwork, is well on the way to becoming a major accomplishment in the Country Music industry. Although their Columbia Recording contract and the overwhelming success of "Tippy-Toeing" are rather recent happenings, long hard years of work, rehearsal and preparation have gone into the current act of the threesome.

Guest appearances on the Ozark Jubilee and the Louisiana Hayride were major steps in their climb to the top—a steady upswing beginning with Barnyard Frolics in Little Rock, and most recently, appearances on the Grand Ole Opry and many of the major syndicated Country Music TV shows.

A lot can be learned about success in Country Music by closely observing the way Bobby, Arlene and Robbie did it . . . the Harden Way.



# COUNTRY HARMONY

## THE HARDIN WAY

← Family Portrait—(left to right) Bobby, Robbie and Arlene use to advantage a backdrop of "good ole Suthun Magnolia trees."



"Big Brother's Watching You"—Robbie brings up a point for brother's approval. (Note boots: "They're made for 'Tippy-Toeing'... not 'Walking'.")



Columns of Nashville's famous Parthenon form a backdrop for the trio. The threesome itself is currently standing tall in the world of Country Music.

# NASHVILLE MOVIES

## "COUNTRY BOY"

By RUTH CHARON

Following close on the heels of the Ormond production, "Girl From Tobacco Row," Hollywood movie directors again are working in Nashville. The new film "Country Boy," in technicolor, displays to advantage Tennessee scenery and the costuming of Country artists. A family show and appropriate for all ages, the movie boasts many dramatic and exciting sequences with a very poignant story theme. (The creative talent is here; the scenery is magnificent; and Hollywood executives are being drawn to our borders.)

You will recognize some of the stars from movies and TV series: Randy Boone, Sheb Wooley, Paul Brinnegard, John Pickard and James Dobson. Just out of high school and appearing for the first time on film is lovely Pauletta Leemen, playing opposite Randy Boone. Directors of the cast were thrilled with Pauletta's natural ability to play a starring role with feeling and professional aplomb.

Incidentally, Hillous Buttrum is Pauletta's manager and reports that she will soon have a record out. This switches the trend for Nashville country stars—usually they become recording artists, then film stars. This proves what a good manager can do for a capable entertainer. Buttrum served as coordinator of talent for "Country Boy" and acts in the film as well.

"Country Boy" has as its central plot Randy, as a real country boy whose chief aim in life is to become a star. When the Sheb Wooley Show comes to town, he stows away on the caravan's bus and by a contrivance of fate, gets on the Nashville show, becoming an instant hit. After this surprise appearance, he gains a manager (played by Paul Crabtree, the script writer) and becomes a "big name." "You need a gimmick to break through in the big time nowadays," says Crabtree, and discovers that Randy's full name is Abraham Lincoln Byrd. "That's it!" When you see the movie you will be surprised to see how the manager used this to develop his "gimmick."

An interesting personal note to the film was the marriage of Randy Boone to Sylvia Nowell of North Carolina last May. They were still enjoying their honeymoon during the shooting schedule, a big thrill for Sylvia since it was her first experience with films. Randy has retired from TV series, "The Virginian" to concentrate on movie making and recording. He is quite a songster and songwriter. During their stay in Nashville, the newlyweds were feted, western style, with a chicken dinner and an afternoon of riding and boating at Old Hickory Lake.

A wealth of experience is being brought to Nashville in the form of writers, actors, producers, directors, technicians and script girls. Joe Kane has been at Republic Pictures 20 years, worked on John Wayne

and Randolph Scott movies. Jack Barry was 20 years with Paramount, was assistant director on the first "Dr. Kildaire" series, "Batman" and "The Fugitive." Allen Stensvold is Bob Hope's cameraman, having traveled with Bob 10 years on his overseas Christmas shows. Sheb Wooley and Paul Brinnegard (Wishbone) are from the "Rawhide" series.

Paul Brinnegard is now in Europe working on a film in which he plays a tramp who befriends a poor little urchin. I asked if it would be something like the "Bicycle Thief." "Yes," he replied, "it will be a type of art film and we are hoping it will measure up to that calibre." He recently appeared in one of the last episodes of the "Perry Mason" series. Then Paul got on his favorite subject—wife Shirley and their two-year-old son, Paul III. He is hoping someday to retire to their favorite spot, Santa Fe, N. M.

Sheb Wooley cut another MGM record while here.

James Dobson plays Randy's brother in "Country Boy." You will remember him from hundreds of movies and TV shows. He has a wonderful face and acting ability, yet like many others with 20 years or so in films, the name is not familiar but you know him at first glance. Ed Begley demonstrated this fact, when after years in the business, he won an Oscar; then his name became a household word. John Pickard has been in myriads of Westerns—another one you will recognize instantly. Majel Barrett is a busy Hollywood starlet and acting as Sheb's secretary.

Interior decorator Bill Gernert has mastered the artwork of set designing in a number of locally filmed movies, including the current effort, "That Tennessee Beat," produced by Dick Brill and the independent Nashville Venture Prod. Corp. Earl Richards stars in this one.

Ralph Emery and Howard White are open for more parts in this world of the silver screen, adding up to the grand finale, 'us Country Music Capitol folks' are ready, willing and able, cineramas, here we come!



Hillous Buttrum, Pauletta, Sheb & James Dobson talk script during chow time.





*Randy & Majel Barrett during actual scene on the first day of shooting at Trafco Studios.*



*Randy and R. Charon, don't try, she'll never learn to pick.*



*Hillous, James D. and (Wishbone) Paul Brinnegar during interview at Trafco.*



*Hillous, Randy and Grandpa Jones backstage at Opry. Randy & Sheb sang there on their off hours Saturday.*



*James Dobson, John Pickard, Pauletta & Hillous between scenes.*

# WHERE THE STARS ARE SHINING

<b>ERNIE ASHWORTH</b>	<b>JULY</b>	Toronto, Ont. Can.	25-30	Peoria, Ill.	23
Ashburn, Ga.	2	Culpepper, Va.	31	Corydon, Ind.	29
Winona, Minn.	9			Angola, Ind.	31
Angola, Ind.	10				
Hastings, Mich.	30	<b>HOMESTEADERS</b>		<b>RED SOVINE</b>	
Onsted, Mich.	31	Brownstone, Ill.	4	Columbus, Ohio	3
<b>CARL &amp; PEARL BUTLER</b>		Sparta, Ill.	7	Angola, Ind.	4
Greenville, S. C.	1-2	Danville, Ill.	13	Ishpeming, Mich.	8
Winchester, Va.	3	Fairfield, Ill.	14	Winona, Minn.	9-10
Williamson, W. Va.	4	Jerseyville, Ill.	16	Fargo, N. D.	12
Blocker, Ind.	9	Monticello, Ill.	17		
Angola, Ind.	10	Flora, Ill.	20	<b>HANK THOMPSON</b>	
Minneapolis, Minn.	11-16	Angola, Ind.	24	Amarillo, Tex.	1-4
Salem, Ohio	24	Corydon, Ind.	26	Salt Lake City, Utah	16
Hastings, Mich.	30	Augusta, Ill.	27	San Carlos, Calif.	26-31
Onsted, Mich.	31	Urbana, Ill.	28		
<b>ARCHIE CAMPBELL</b>		South Roxana, Ill.	30		
Rogersville, Tenn.	2	Salem, Ohio.	31		
Monticello, Ill.	3			<b>MERLE TRAVIS</b>	
Ross-Cincinnati, Ohio	23	<b>WANDA JACKSON</b>		Franklin, Ohio	4
Columbus, Ohio	24	Richland, Pa.	2	Pittsburgh, Kans.	8
Lewistown, Ill.	25	San Carlos, Calif.	26-31	Springfield, Mo.	9
Tomah, Wis.	30			Shreveport, La.	16
Hartford, Mich.	31			Mobile, Ala.	17
				Roanoke, Va.	24
				South Roxana, Ill.	30
				Monticello, Ill.	31
<b>CATES SISTERS</b>		<b>NORMA JEAN</b>		<b>JUSTIN TUBB</b>	
Tripoli, Ia.	18-19	Akron, Ohio	17	Rogersville, Tenn.	2
Jessup, Ia.	20-21	Lewiston, Ill.	25	Columbus, Ohio	4
Coggon, Ia.	22-23	Florence, Ala.	29	Mobile, Ala.	17
Dannellson, Ia.	24	Huntsville, Ala.	30	Shreveport, La.	23
Greenfield, Ia.	26	<b>WAYLON JENNINGS</b>		Lewistown, Ill.	25
Memphis, Mo.	28	Montreal, Que., Can.	1-3	Tomah, Wis.	30
Dighton, Kans.	29	Akron, Ohio	17	Hartford, Mich.	31
Beloit, Kans.	30	Las Vegas, Nev.	28-31		
<b>ROY CLARK</b>		<b>GRANDPA JONES</b>			
Vancouver, B. C., Can.	14-23			<b>PORTER WAGONER</b>	
Warren AFB, Cheyenne, Wyo	25-31	Florence, Ala.	17	Greenville, S. C.	1
<b>JIMMY DICKENS</b>		Bowling Green, Ky.	20-23	Greensboro, N. C.	2
Georgetown, Tex.	1-2	Monroe, Wis.	30	Berryville, Va.	3
Brownstown, Ill.	4	<b>GEORGE MORGAN</b>		Alderman, W. Va.	4
Sparta, Ill.	7	Europe	1-19	Anderson, Ind.	10
Winona, Minn.	9	Savannah, Mo.	23	Atlanta, Ga.	17
Danville, Ill.	13	Montgomery City, Mo.	30	Elnora, Ind.	19
Fairfield, Ill.	14	<b>MINNIE PEARL</b>		Arthur, Ill.	20
Jerseyville, Ill.	16	Griggsville, Ill.	4	Bowling Green, Ky.	22
Monticello, Ill.	17	Peoria, Ill.	23	Alexandria, La.	27
Flora, Ill.	20	Manson, Iowa	24	Oklahoma City, Okla.	29-31
Milwaukee, Wis.	22-23	Atlanta, Ga.	27	<b>BILLY WALKER</b>	
Angola, Ind.	24	Corydon, Ind.	29	Shreveport, La.	2
Corydon, Ind.	26	<b>WEBB PIERCE</b>		Salem, Ohio	10
Augusta, Ill.	27	Greenville, S. C.	1	Montreal, Que., Can.	11-17
Urbana, Ill.	28	Greensboro, N. C.	2	Europe	30-31
Salem, Ohio	31	Raleigh, N. C.	9	<b>DOTTIE WEST</b>	
		State Line, Pa.	10	Rogersville, Tenn.	2
<b>DUKE OF PADUCAH</b>		Dickerson, Md.	17	Huntington, W. Va.	3-4
Ross-Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Culpepper, Va.	24	State Line, Pa.	17
Columbus, Ohio	3	Hartford, Mich.	31	Toronto, Ont., Can.	18-23
Angola, Ind.	4	<b>MAX POWELL</b>		Culpepper, Va.	24
Huntington, W. Va.	5	State Line, Pa.	10	Tomah, Wis.	30
Winona, Minn.	9-10	Dickerson, Md.	17	Hartford, Mich.	31
Fargo, N. D.	12	Culpepper, Va.	24		
		<b>MARVIN RAINWATER</b>		<b>WILLIS BROTHERS</b>	
<b>JOHNNY DARRELL</b>		Minneapolis, Minn.	25-30	Myers Lake, Ohio	1-2
Monticello, Ill.	31	<b>DEL REEVES</b>		Angola, Ind.	4
<b>LEFTY FRIZZELL</b>		Shelbyville, Ill.	3	Columbus, Ohio	10
Salem, Ohio	3	Columbus, Ga.	9	Forsyth, Mo.	15
Columbus, Ohio	4	Columbus, Ohio	10	Wichita, Kans.	17
Shreveport, La.	23	Onsted, Mich.	24	Monroe, Wis.	30
Pensacola, Fla.	28	<b>DOLORES SMILEY</b>		Monticello, Ill.	31
Florence, Ala.	29	Winona, Minn.	9-10	<b>FARON YOUNG</b>	
Huntsville, Ala.	30	Fargo, N. D.	12	Manlius, N. Y.	2
		<b>CARL SMITH</b>		Reeds Ferry, N. H.	3
<b>HARDEN TRIO</b>		New Tazewell, Tenn.	1	Dickerson, Md.	4
Ponchatoula, La.	2	Toronto, Ont., Can.	6	San Antonio, Tex.	8
Columbus, Ga.	9	Angola, Ind.	10	Sanders, Tex.	9
Akron, Ohio	17	Trenton, N. J.	30	Albuquerque, N. M.	11-14
Winchester, Va.	24	Dickerson, Md.	31	Amarillo, Tex.	15
		<b>HANK SNOW</b>		Fort Worth, Tex.	16
		Europe	1-10	Cullman, Ala.	24
				Shreveport, La.	30



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