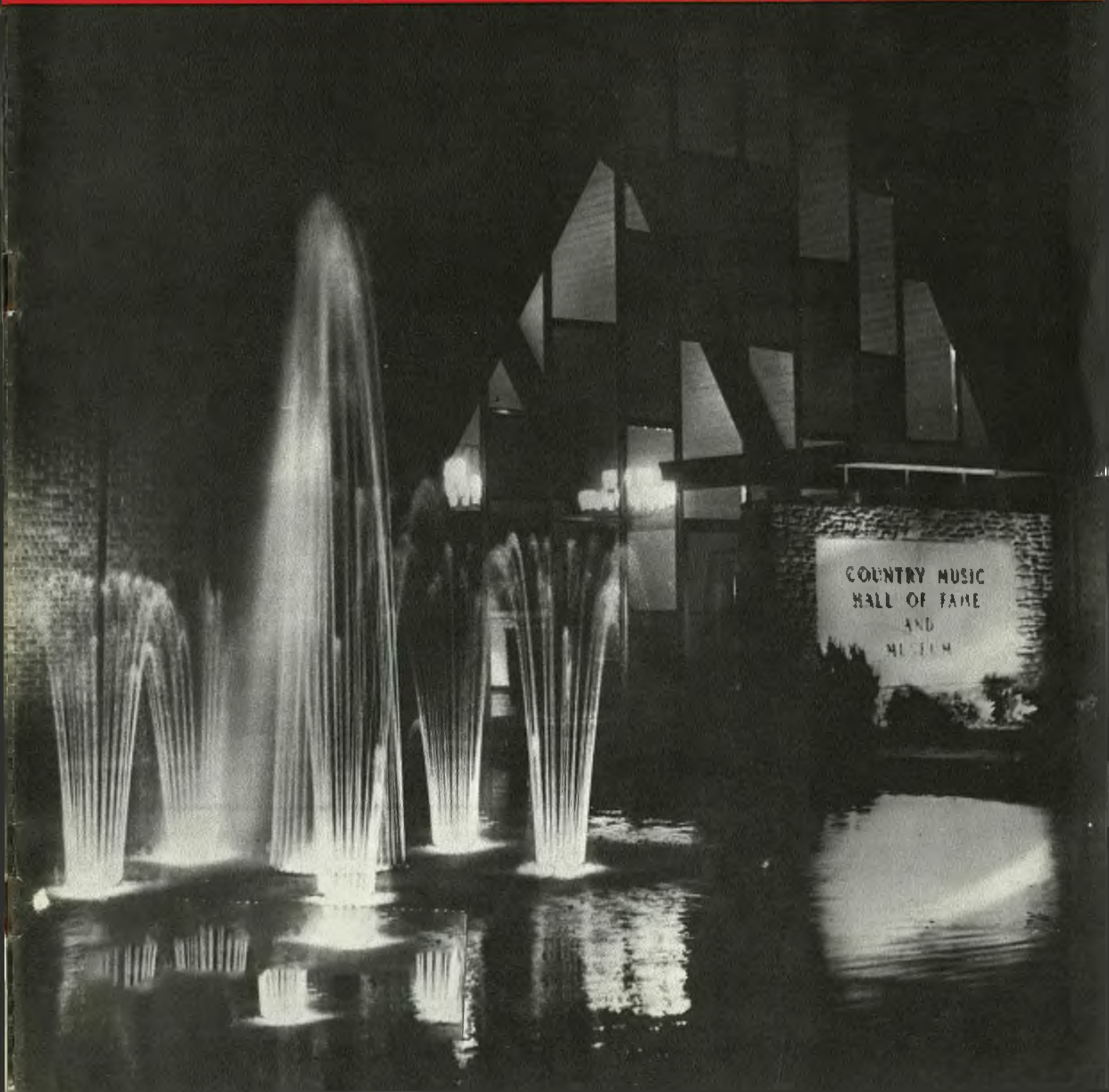


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14 *News*

FEATURE STORIES

22 *Country and Western Academy Awards*

25 *Hall of Fame Opening*

26 *Hank Snow*

29 *On Tour with Bill Anderson - Part 3*

31 *The Singing Rambos in Viet Nam*

36 *Carl Smith and Company*

40 *Dr. Paul Moore*

DEPARTMENTS

4 *Letters To The Editor*

6 *Ten Top Tunes*

7 *Top Ten Around The Country*

8 *Westcoast Notes - Gospel Trail*

9 *Canadian Notes*

10 *Westcoast Notes - Midwest Notes*

11 *Nashville Notes - Southeast Notes*

46 *Fan Club Guide*

47 *Where The Stars Are Shining*

ON THE COVER



The dramatic night photograph of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum graces this month's cover. See story on page 25.

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**Next
Month**

In



Ray Price

George Hamilton IV

John D. Loudermilk

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would just like to say that I agree with what Clara Miller (Jan. C.M.L. 1967) had to say about Charlie Pride. I think he is the best new Country Music entertainer to come along in a long while. I would like to write to her but as you didn't print her full address, I wonder if you would print this so she will see it. Charlie Pride does have an album out with twelve songs on it, every one terrific. I bought it in Hartford, Conn. If she would like more information she can write to me. I'll be glad to hear from her and will answer her letter. Thank you -

Vickie Wolf
38 Pendleton Rd.
Granby, Conn. 06035

•Dear Sir:

I recently sent in my renewal subscription to "Country Music Life". I would be very appreciative if you were to feature Sonny James in an issue. All of us club members just think the "world" of him.

Keep up the good work. I like your articles on country music stars and your "news" section.

Yours truly,
Miss Ruth Schwarz
Tucson, Arizona

SONNY JAMES was featured in our December 1965 issue. We have plans for another story during the coming year. Ed.

Gentlemen:

First off, I want to compliment you, I love your magazine. The picture on the cover of the last issue of Bill Anderson and band I thought was real nice. How about some of other groups. I would especially like to see Hank Williams Jr. & "The Cheatin Hearts" and Waylon Jennings & his "Waylors". I'd like to add a few words about Waylon. He is the greatest singer in Country Music, has the prettiest voice anywhere, is going to be a great star in the not too distant future and I'd like to join his fan club if he has one. Thanks for listening to my thoughts and please have a lot of stories and pictures of Waylon in your magazine.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Ann Miller
Syracuse, N.Y.

Our fan club Editor does not list a fan club for Waylon Jennings. Ed.

Mr. Frank Harris:

Writing to comment on your fine publication, Country Music Life. I would like to compliment you on the fine stories which you wrote on America's number one Country and Western Singer Buck Owens and also on The Queen of the West, Dottie West, of which I am a proud member of both prospective Fan Clubs.

Could you possibly write a story on Smokey Warren who is known as The Eastern King of Western swing, I am sure you are familiar with the famous WARREN BROS. Shorty and Smokey Warren. I wish you would write a story about him. He is a real gentleman.

I have a suggestion for you concerning your magazine, why not write a story about a Country and Western Disc Jockey of the month. You could write about Country Disc Jockey Bob Lockwood who broadcasts over radio station WJRZ big 97. in Newark, 201-624 5300. I am sure that is a very good suggestion. I hope that you will use it.

Again Mr. Harris, I would like to say that Country Music Life is the best in the field of Country and Western Music.

Mr. Harris, could you send me a few of your brochures pertaining to the magazine so that I may spread the word to some of my friends. I am also a proud member of the CMA known as the Country Music Association, Inc. Well I guess that is all for now. Til I hear from you. I'll remain as always.

Yours truly,
James L. & Philip G. Urgola
(The Urgola Bros.)

Kearny, N.J.

Thank you for the kind words. All suggestions are appreciated. Ed.

Dear Sir:

I sure like, Country Music Life especially February issue. I belong to the Bill Anderson Fan Club, also nine others also a local club to promote Country Music on T.V. and Radio.

I am a big Waylon Jennings Fan. Does he have a fan club? It is never on the list. I would like to join.

A big thanks to Jackie Gleason for the Country Western spectacular on T.V.

Mrs. J. B. Jones
Vallejo, Calif.

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WHERE DOES THE GOOD TIMES GO
Buck Owens
- 

THE COLD HARD FACTS OF LIFE
Porter Wagoner
- 

I WON'T COME IN WHILE HE'S THERE
Jim Reeves
- 

STAMP OUT LONELINESS
Stonewall Jackson
- 

NEED YOU
Sonny James
- 

GET WHILE THE GETTIN'S GOOD
Bill Anderson
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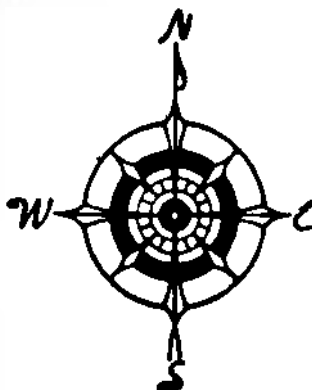
NORTH

NORTH

1. Stamp Out Loneliness (S. Jackson)
2. Get While The Gettin's Good (B. Anderson)
3. Urge For Going (G. Hamilton IV)
4. Walk Through This World (G. Jones)
5. I Won't Come In While He's There (J. Reeves)
6. Need You (S. James)
7. All Of Me (D. Curless)
8. Gone, On The Other Hand (Tompail & The Glazer Bros.)
9. Country Boy's Dream (C. Perkins)
10. Mabel (Skeets McDonald)

WEST

1. It's Such A Pretty World Today (W. Stewart)
2. Imagine Me (B. Mize)
3. Walk Thru This World With Me (G. Jones)
4. Jackson (J. Cash)
5. Need You
6. Fly Butterfly Fly (M. Robbins)
7. I Threw Away The Rose (M. Haggard)
8. Danny Boy (R. Price)
9. The Cold Hard Facts Of Life (P. Wagoner)
10. Charleston Railroad Tavern (B. Bare)



EAST

1. I Won't Come In (J. Reeves)
2. Walk Thru This World (J. Jones)
3. Cold Hard Facts (P. Wagoner)
4. Where Does Good Times Go (B. Owen)
5. Need You (S. James)
6. Lonely Again (E. Arnold)
7. Get While Gettin's Good (B. Anderson)
8. Drifting Apart (W. Mack)
9. Stamp Out Loneliness (S. Jackson)
10. Words I'm Gonna Have To Eat (B. Phillips)

SOUTH

1. Just Between You And Me (C. Pride)
2. Walk Through This World With Me (G. Jones)
3. I Don't Wanna Be With Me (C. Twitty)
4. Cold Hard Facts Of Life (P. Wagoner)
5. The Cockfight (A. Campbell)
6. Saint To A Sinner (L. Lynn)
7. I Threw Away The Rose/Loneliness (M. Haggard)
8. Heart, We Did All That We Could (J. Sheppard)
9. Danny Boy (R. Price)
10. Sam's Place (B. Owens)

THE GOSPEL TRAIL

By Marty Deacon

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

It is a real pleasure to sit down at this tired old typewriter and write the first gospel music column for Country Music Life. In the last few years gospel music has advanced to all corners of the world, and in my humble opinion, will be one of the fastest growing fields in all of the music business. Over the past few months, I've met and enjoyed the company of the leaders of this music. . . the quartets, managers, record companies, A & R men, etc. . . and have thoroughly enjoyed every single moment. During the months to come, this column will attempt to bring you the story of the people involved. . their activities, reactions and thoughts. If you have any questions concerning the people in gospel music, or the field itself, drop me a line at P. O. Box 99, Amboy, Ill. 61310. Would appreciate hearing of local quarters, radio or TV shows in your area. Will print this information as well as the national scene.

Record Row in Music City USA, is constantly lined with the quartet busses . . . many parked outside the local recording studios . . . had a long chat with the Statesmen, when they recently cut. A fine bunch of boys. . . sitting in on numerous sessions, A & R'd by Heart Warming Records (Benson Music Co.) dynamic Bob McKenzie. Seems he's in the studios everyday cutting sessions for this fine label. Was spellbound, when Dave Oldham cut his first session. Backed by the terrific, Imperials (lead by their mighty 'leader' Jake Hess), this boy really comes across. Mighty powerful listening. . . Mom Speer is featured soloist on six sides in the recently released Speer Family Heart Warming album, "The Speer Family Rejoices With Mom." It commemorates the recent return to full-time traveling of gospel music's gracious "first lady" who had been in semi-retirement for three years because of the illness of her late husband.

After their recent return from tour, The Imperials' main topic of conversation was the 'scare' they had in Detroit. While they were performing on stage, the audience detected the smell of smoke and within five minutes the auditorium was practically emptied. However, since all the lights were out, except for a dark-blue spot, the Imperials were unaware of what was happening until the promoter came on stage to advise the audience that all danger was over and that they could safely return to their seats. It seems that a faulty wire had caused a small fire but in a large auditorium, filled to capacity, this is an explosive

continued on page 39

Northwest

NOTES

By LARRY BRIEL

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

Television Viewers and C/M fans in wide areas of the Pacific Northwest recently enjoyed seeing Heck Harper's "White Hat Jamboree" 30-minute music program, originated from KGW-TV, the NBC Network affiliate in Portland, Oregon, and telecast on some other stations in this region of the country. The show featured many fine musicians and entertainers, including Harper and his band, John Fuhmann, Ernie Cutshall, Steve Melnichuck, Joan Tracey, Lee Knight and Al Boivent. Special guests for the occasion were The Punchliners, a novelty singing duo from Pendleton, Oregon. Heck Harper has long been a C/M favorite in the Portland sector, and with good response more of his programs could be broadcast in other parts of the Northwest in the future.

In a sudden shift of formats under it's new ownership, Country Music was dropped by KTW-Radio, in Seattle, in favor of a religion-telephone-information line-up. When this happened, KMO (5,000 watts), in Tacoma, Wash., covering the same market area, added C/M to it's daytime schedule. For some time, KMO has aired "Country" records at night and on Saturday afternoons, with Burt Light, ex-KTW staffer now in charge.

Not long ago, Rusty Draper, formerly one of the stars of the now off the air "Swingin' Country" series on NBC-TV, was in the Northwest playing hotel and lounge dates. Roy Clark, another star of the show was also here, appearing on the "Country Music Spectacular" the middle of last month with George Jones and the Jones Boys, Lefty Frizzell, Mary Taylor, and Homer and Jethro. The only regular "Swingin' Country" star personality missing this locality was Molly Bee. Maybe she can make it at a later time.

On the movie screen, "Nashville Rebel", featuring Waylon Jennings, Tex Ritter, Sonny James, Loretta Lynn, Porter Wagoner, and various other Music City personalities, came into the Northwest a month back, pretty much following in the footsteps of the "Road To Nashville" picture, by being booked at drive-in theaters. It would be interesting to compare attendance and money made on each of these films, and project what they could have done if shown indoors. I have a strong feeling the latter arrangement would have worked out far better for everyone.

Faron Young and wife Hilda came out from Nash-

continued on page 44

Canadian

NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

The Tommy Hunter Show was rated in the top three in Canada so far this season. In February Tommy Saluted the WSM Grand Ole Opry. During April Tommy will have as his guests on one of his shows Johnny Cash, also June Carter, The Tennessee Three and The Statler Brothers.

Radio Station CJGX, Yorkton, Sask. once again has an afternoon Country Music program due to the constant demands of the public and the untiring efforts of one T. Texas Tony (Chipman) who now hosts the "Crackerbarrel Show" from 1:30 - 4:00 P.M. Tony is from Halifax, and before entering radio spent almost ten years in the Canadian Army, five of which were in Europe. One of these years he spent in Germany where he was a D.J. for Canadian Army Europe radio where the station featured mostly Country/Western music. Announcing on CJGX on Valentines Day was taken over by the wives of the regular D.J.'s and since Tony and his wife have been married for only a few months, you can bet they set a good example for the promotion of Mr. Cupid's work. Mrs. Chipman did a great job of spinning Country music! CJGX also has an all-night Country show.

Jimmy Arthur Org's recording of "Irene Cheyenne" on the Apex label is one of the fastest rising songs on the charts today. He recorded the song in Toronto last year and was first released on an album. Constant requests by the public prompted the release on a single, and the folk-country ballad is doing very well for Jimmy. Due to the popularity of the record Jimmy is in heavy demand for personal appearances. It's wonderful to see such great things happen to this young man from Edmonton.

Latest news on Gracie Dee who is originally from Sask. and now living in Vancouver, is that her overseas tour was a great success. She recently did a show in Vancouver with Litle Jimmy Dickens and Doyle Holley. Gracie and her group also played some isolated spots in Northern B.C. and received a great reception. They are off again on a two month tour playing North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Gracies band consists of Bill Schedell on piano, Jay Compton on bass and Gracie besides singing plays drums. In April Gracie Dee will be starting with an all-girl band which she is now organizing with Canadian girls. Two of the girls are Lennie Rennie on piano and Bonnie Lin on drums. They also play lead guitar and bass as well as sing. Gracie will have a new release in June on Sims called "Talking To The Picture". Russell Sims (of Sims records) says that this will be Gracie's big one. Mike Harris, Gracie's manager, is also re-

continued on page 35

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Nashville

NOTES



By
Paul and Ruth Charon

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

Greetings from back in Nashville again, after a month's tour of the West coast, visiting our family and sightseeing. Would you believe, that at press time, I was in the Tijuana Bull Ring, where the Tijuana Brass were filming a CBS Special for March. . . . The shopkeepers in that Mexican city, seemed to enjoy the copies of Country Music Life I showed them. . . .

"Girl From Tobacco Row", starring Tex Ritter, had its first Nashville showing February 19th, at the Skyway and Warner Park Drive-Ins. Producers Ron and June Ormond sponsored a special event autographing party, presenting many of the stars and players in this color feature film. We are looking forward to the filming of the next movie to be made here by this unique movie producing Ormond family.

Hubert Long, head of Hubert Long Talent Agency and Moss Rose Publications, spent the month in Baptist Hospital, for two visceral operations. His recovery suite was showered with flowers, from those in our industry. . . . The 24 inch snow which blanketed Illinois, afforded the marooned motorists a free two hour show. The snowbound groups were housed in the high school, VFW Lodge, private homes and even the city jail. Among them were Tex Ritter and Leroy Van Dyke with his band. So these entertainers treated their fellow snowbound folks to a free two hour show, who gave them a much warmer reception than the chilly blasts outside.

Shirley Welch of the Long Agency has been promoted to Executive Secretary, assuming many administrative duties in this fast growing complex of publishing companies. Epic's new successful Tammy Wynette, has been added to the roster of stars at this Hubert Long Agency. The Warner Brothers recording "Day For Decision", featuring Johnny Sea, is the creation of Nashville newsman, Allen Peltier. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has nominated this record for a "Granny Award" in the Best Spoken Word, Documentary or Drama Recording

continued on page 12

Southeast

NOTES



By
Red Wilcox

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

Before "delving into" the Washington, D.C. scene this month, I would first of all like to make a comment on an editorial that appeared in this magazine a few months ago regarding "advertising". For two months, the Compton Brothers utilized the back cover of CM LIFE for advertising purposes. Tom Compton informed me that three weeks after the release of the first issue carrying this ad, "Pickin' Up The Mail" began appearing in the national charts. On public appearances around the country, countless fans came up to them after a show and commented on their ad in Country Music Life. This proves "the pulling power" of a Country Music LIFE ad.

Welcome to the Wilbum Brothers' syndicated T.V. show now appearing on Channel 20 at 10:30 Saturday nights in the Washington area. This show follows the Ernest Tubb Show's time slot - - making for an hour of uninterrupted top notch country music. Also, don't forget the Porter Wagoner Show seen at 7:00 in Washington, Saturday night.

Within a "stone's throw" of Washington is home to a great many country music personalities. It is no secret, of course, that Arthur Godfrey lives near here - -also, The Compton Brothers, Johnny \$ Dollar, Jimmy Dean has a farm in the area where he plans to retire someday, Roy Clark, Elton Britt - - and now another famous personality has just recorded in Nashville. On the Monument Label, be sure to listen for the new album by - - Robert Mitchum. The Compton Brothers also cut a new Nashville "Dot" session the end of March. The Compton Brothers, incidently, after February engagements in upper New York state, Michigan, and Canada, are looking forward to the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas in September! Johnny \$ Dollar has also been working the Northeast sector of the country almost consistently during the frigid weather!

D.C. area promoter, Jim Clark, lists May as a big big month with the following shows going: May 1. The Johnny Cash Show, Johnstown, Penna.; May 13, same show at Harrisburg, Penna.; May 14 same show at Washington, D.C.; May 17, The Buck Owens'

continued on page 42

Westcoast

NOTES



By Jim Harris

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

The Academy of Country & Western music annual Awards show was held on March 6th at the beautiful Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. Normally the absolute deadline for turning in editorial content is the 5th of the month, but I turned on my usual charm and talked them into letting me be a little late. It wasn't easy. I got the usual "don't make a habit of it" and "just this once", but they're pretty good natured people out there so I got my way, (as I always do).

Since I slept through most of my english classes, I can't think of any adjectives to describe this annual event. Just ask someone that went to it. The theme of this years awards banquet was "Country Music in Hollywood" and how they grew up together. It's a fact. The movie people that attended almost outnumbered the country music people. There were several movie stars lined up as award presenters, but many more came out just for the event. Robert Taylor was in the audience, along with Ben Johnson and Rick Nelson. Also in the audience was Hoyt Axton and the great Ray Charles. More details on the awards are elsewhere in this issue but to be brief, best talent management presented by Andy Devine won by Jack Mc Fadden . . . best nightclub presented by Judy Lynn - winner was the Palomino . . . the producers/A & R directors award was given to Capitols Ken Nelson by character actor Chill Wills . Andrew Prine of "The Road West" and Melody Patterson of "F Troop" gave the steel guitar award to Tom Brumley of the Buckaroos who tied with Ralph Mooney . . . They also presented the drummers award to Jerry Wiggins . . . James Drury of "The Virginian" and Frances Preston of "BMI" presented the Bass award to Bob Morris, the Fiddle award to Billy Armstrong, and the Piano award to Billy Liebert . . . Nick Adams was next to give the best Band award to the "Buckaroos" . . . Brenda Scott of "The Road West" presented the Most Promising Vocal Group award to Bob Morris and Faye Hardin . . . Bonnie Owens and Merle Haggard received the Top Vocal Group award from Ken Curtis of "Gunsmoke"

continued on page 42

Midwest

NOTES



Mary Ann Cooper

Due to Country Music Life's recent change in production schedules, we are publishing two months columns in this issue. This will keep the news in all future columns fresh and up to date.

The death of SMILEY BURNETTE was deeply felt here in the Midwest and especially right around the Central Illinois area. It is with pride that I say this great actor-comic-songwriter was first heard by the public thirty-eight years ago on W.D.Z. then located in Tuscola, Illinois (W.D.Z. is in Decatur now). I hadn't yet entered the world and so missed hearing him perform with his "squeeze box" but Mother remembers well.

Smiley was just out of Monticello High School, working with W.D.Z., when one day he received a call from GENE AUTRY. "This is Gene Autry", the voice on the phone said. "Sure, and I'm Grant," Smiley replied. After finally convincing the teenager he really was Gene Autry, Gene asked "How much are you making at that radio station?" "I'm gettin' \$18 a week and gettin' it regular." "I can pay you \$35," Autry said, who was then on radio in Chicago, "Think it over and let me know". It didn't take Smiley long to reply "I've thunk it over and I'll take it!" Burnette made about 81 movies with Autry! This story of how he got the first job with Gene was one of Smiley's favorites - he liked to tell it, so we wanted to share it with you via COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE. Smiley passed away at the age of 55, on February 16th.

W.J.J.D. has increased their time to 21 hours . . . all country music! Former part-time DJ-newscaster, CHUCK ROWELL now handles the late night chores on F.M. radio. Now that he's a full-fledged "Western Gentleman" (as all JJD deejays are called), Chuck is making a lot of personal appearances emceeding shows thru-out the Chicago area.

A St. Louis Country Music Association has been formed to promote C & W shows and music in that Metropolitan area. Our thanks to SHIRLEY WHITE, JENNY JAMISON and BARNEY BARNICLE, for letting us know about it . . . These St. Louis entertainers are just the greatest about letting me know of their activities, and that's appreciated sooooo much!

A set of very powerful lyrics in a song called

continued on page 13

NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued from page 11

category.

Sorry to have missed the visit of Howard Vokes while I was out West. He came here to record his artist Betty Bee; Tommy Hill was very impressed with her session. This new singles' title is; "Judge Of Hearts" b/w "I've Got My Honey", published by Vokes Music. In April, Betty's album will be issued. I was very impressed with the talents of this young lady, when we met at the D.J. Convention. My thanks go to Chaw Mank, Peggy Steelman and Patti White for mailing me some Nashville news while I was vacationing in sunny Mexico. A friend of ours passed away while we were there, Abelardo Rodriguez, one of the wealthiest men in Mexico and ex-President of that country. Nothing to do with our music, but these south-of-the border folks remind us of the Country Music people, in their outgoing friendly manner. Then too, their music flavor has become a popular part of both our 'pop' and Country Music, with those trumpets and brass. It seemed strange, clear up in San Francisco, watching the syndicated Grand Ole Opry Show, so far away, it is shown there at 7:00 P.M. on T.V. Then in San Diego, the Wilburn Brothers and Porter Wagoner TV'ers are viewing favorites of these southern Californians.

Our busy Mary (Mrs. Jim) Reeves has purchased WMTS Radio Station in Murfreesboro, Tenn. . . Boone, recording artist Chuck Howard has joined the star-filled lineup of Key Talent, Inc., announced by President Jimmy Key. Chuck's new release moving up the charts is "YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ME" . . . Chuck wrote his smash recording "A THING CALLED SADNESS", which has become a country-'pop' standard . . . Dave Dudley received a congratulatory note from Sgt. Bill Boyd of the American Forces Network, informing him that his record, "VIET NAM BLUES" and "COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE", were the number one and two songs in Europe in 1966. And that his new single, "MY KIND OF LOVE" appears destined for the same position this year . . .

Mary Kay Sloan, WWVA Publicity Department, writes a thank you for our letter and that they appreciate the mentions in Country Music Life. . . . WWVA Jamboree boasts that three of their artists are on the national charts; Van Trevor, Penny Starr and the Compton Brothers. My thanks to this 50,000 watter for constant, numerous and informative press releases. . . .

Tri-Son News of Wild Horse Colorado reports: results of a recent C & W Popularity poll are just in from Radio Apinrie in Paramaribo, Suriname, South America. Results show; Buck Owens, Jim Reeves and Ernest Tubb in the male vocalist division; Females in the 'big 3' are Bonnie Owens, Skeeter Davis and Loretta Lynn. Colorado's Tiger recording artists' Jim and Lyn, rank number 5 in the top vocal group department.

Watching our Marty Robbins' movie, "Hell On Wheels", in the editing machine and cutting room floor, I can guarantee you all an exciting stock car racing show, produced by Robert Patrick and Will Zens. . . . I will see you all next month, when I get back down to earth. . . . Ruth C. & Paul. (suntanned from Florida). . . .

* * * * *

Warm weather has finally arrived in Nashville, and with it is presented the main social and historical event of the year; the Country Music Hall Of Fame Dedication, on March 31st. Roy Horton, Chairman of the Board of the CMA, cut the ribbon at the beginning of the Walkaway of Stars, along with CMA President Paul Cohen and Executive Director, Jo Walker. The beauty of it all is that we have had the full co-operation of the city-planning 'fathers', both in moral and financial support. They have finally realized the world wide fame that Country Music has brought to Nashville, its contribution to history, and the millions annually it brings to the city and state funds.

The illustrious program was emceed by Billboard Magazine. The speakers included Governor Buford Ellington, former Governor Frank G. Clement, Rep. Richard Fulton and Mayor Beverly Briley. The spectacular was shown live on WLAC TV and NBC camera men were there to film in color for a future network special. This event was by invitation only, but we reporters were there on the sidelines snapping shots.

This amiable and friendly Bill Williams, a regular part of WSM, as public relations man for the Grand Ole Opry, now has a new position. He is the southeastern and Nashville Editor of Billboard Magazine, still doing part time spots on WSM TV. He has made the news an exciting feature on the 6:00 A.M. Bobby Lord Show. Bill puts the news to rhythm and Boyce Hawkins sings and plays it at the piano. As Bill puts it, adding a little joy to the daily, sombre, tragic news. Boyce is the brother of the Jordanaires, Hoyt Hawkins. They call it "News In Blues".

Little Jimmie Dickens and his Country Boys are planning another Far East tour in May; it takes them to Viet Nam, Guam, Thailand, Okinawa and other military bases. He hopes this time, there won't be a 40 lb. bomb behind the refrigerator, as two years ago on his Viet show. . I enjoyed an after noon outing with Jimmy and wife at Riverwood Riding Stables recently. Manager Angel hosted us to refreshments, as Jimmy broke in his Christmas present to daughter Pamela. This gift is a fine mount, named Shawnee Britches, a buckskin full of vim and vigor.

Another day at Riverwood, we met a new Nashville resident, a real country performer, Jim Keeney. In March, he aired his first Nashville label release, "Grand Ole Opry Stage", on the Bobby Lord Show, in his shimmering gold suit. This suit was made for Jim as a gift, by a St. Louis designer, who had sup-

reme confidence in his talents.

Newcomers galore arrive in Music City, but Willie Samples is one who should come to the front soon. Willie isn't one who came to Nashville and expected to 'make it' overnight; he has been here three years, after a long time in Michigan, playing the nightclub 'honky tonk' circuit. Working thru this same experience in the Nashville clubs, John Denny finally discovered him, thru the suggestion of songwriter, Wayne Walker. Denny signed Willie to a management and recording contract with his Dollie label, and his first release was out in March. In the meantime, Willie continues earning a living, leading a band and singing in the Nashville clubs. I first heard him walking to the Opry; across the street I heard his soulful voice rendering out the doors of the 109 Club. He is being booked by Barbara Martin, who has opened up new offices on 17th Ave. So., next door to RCA Victor Studios.

March 29th found a gathering of movie producers, who have filmed current Country Music movies. They were: Ron Ormond, who made "Girl From Tobacco Row"; Stanley Williamson, who produced "Country Boy" and "Track Of Thunder" and Preston Collins (from Washington D.C.) who made "Music City U.S.A." This occasion was the first Nashville private showing, at the Donelson Theater, of "Music City U.S.A." Many of these films stars and extras were in attendance; namely, Hillous Butrum, Pauletta Leemen, Jean Matthews, Gordon Terry, Ed Livingston, Phyllis Butrum and Ruth Charon.

With this movie story, comes a Nashville Tennessee coverage that, Vic Lewis, with Audrey Williams and Marathon Pictures have purchased a plot of land on the outskirts of our city, to build a large and much needed movie studio. Trafco Studios have furnished us with a start, but much more area is needed for our growing movie industry.

Regular and informative reports from WWVA Jamboree and WWVA Radio report personally too, thru their Nashville visiting representative, Jimmy Stephens, that they are holding a Spring Country Music Convention, to be attended by Northeast Country Music Association members. Their March 27th "Big Country" survey placed Skeeter Davis's "Fuel To The Flame" at no. 2 on their charts. That same date found Skeeter, her housekeeper, Pete, and drummer, Paul Charon, trekking to Daytona Beach, Fla. for a week in the Atlantic beach sun. Guitarist Ronnie, had to stay home on business. They played earlier March syndicated TV dates at "American Swing-around" with Chris Lane in Chicago, and the "Midwestern Hayride". An additional thank you goes to Abby Mirable at Hollywood's Twentieth Century Fox Studios for the personally escorted tour thru "Peyton Place". "Time Tunnel" & "Lost In Space" - thanks to the reference of RCA's Ed Ames.

MIDWEST NOTES

Continued from page 10

"IT ALL CAME HOME TO ME" could be just as big

a hit (even bigger) as "Almost Persuaded" if everyone would latch on to NORVILLE DOLLAR'S fine rendition of it on the Nugget label! Are ya listening, Mr. Deeja's???? (Norville didn't tell me to "plug" him either . . . I haven't seen or heard from him in ten thousand years . . . how come Norville???)

Former disc jockey from Calgary, STU PHILLIPS ("Walk Me To The Station, Mary") will be a d.j. all over again when this summer he takes over the all night COUNTRY MUSIC U.S.A. show on W.H.O. for a few nights while MIKE HOYER takes a little vacation.

Need a lesson on how to get out of paying a band member, you singers who have bands???? KSTL'S JENNY JAMISON was wed recently to her steel guitarist LEROY KEMP. Jenny says "Now I won't have to pay him." Congratulations to the couple - wonderful people, who now live in Arnold, Missouri.

So many stars have their own buses these days and our local boy, JUNIOR GARNER decided he'd just get one too. True to the usual "bus troubles" the stars have, our own "star" almost didn't make it to the filming of the TV show he stars on CORNBELT COUNTRY STYLE when on the way from Decatur to Springfield (must be all of 30 or 40 miles?) the darn thing caught on fire! The show's host JOHNNY BARTON was ready to call the state police when Junior and the boys finally walked in the TV studio. Does BILL ANDERSON and the other Nashville entertainers think they have all the bus problems?!

The most pleasant thoughts in my mind right now are that SOON it will be time again for all the Spring and Summer live C & W shows, fairs etc. and I've already ordered tickets for a bunch of 'em!

* * * * *

The annual "Hillbilly Jamboree", always a well attended affair, will be held on May 28th at Monticello, Illinois' beautiful Sangamon Park. All the area talent takes part in these shows every year. . . they will be joined this time by Porter Wagoner, Norma Jean, Jack Greene and a host of others.

The Fellowship Alliance Network (F.A.N.) will be holding its first "congress" (I think that's another word for "convention" but they call theirs. . . congress) in Chicago in May, while the K-Bar-T Country Roundup (directed by our Fan Club Editor Trina) has a Midsummer get-together planned in Wichita, Kansas June 23-24-25. So it looks like "meetin time" for the fan clubbers. One of the wonderful things connected with belonging to a fan club is the opportunities to meet so many people interested in the same hobby, from all over the country.

The WJJD Western Gentlemen are making plans for another big country music night club for Chicago, since the famed Rivoli Club closed its doors on New Year's. The Gent'men had much to do with the initial success of the Rivoli, which seemed to go a bit

continued on page 35

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Barbara John has been appointed Manager of Promotion and Public Affairs for KGBS, according to Dale Peterson, General Manager of the Storer station. In addition to her duties in the promotion department, Miss John will also produce the live country music concerts that are a regular feature with KGBS. Miss John is the former producer of "Seven Keys" TV show; Gene Autry's "Melody Ranch" show; and creator of the NBC-TV show "Swingin' Country". In her new position at KGBS, Miss John will work as liaison between community service groups and the station, in coordinating the station's activities in the community.

Japanese C/W singer Masako Hari toured the Far East March 1-15 with the Hank Snow troupe. Snow met the young female artist during a previous Far East tour and an appearance on the Tokyo Grand Ole Opry.

KGBS sales has added the services of Dick McGrath as an Account Executive, according to Ralph Petti, General Sales Manager for the Storer station. McGrath was formerly with KBLA as an account executive, and also served as Assistant Director of Public Relations for Cannell and Chaffing.

Britain's Tom Jones picked a luscious red apple off of Nashville's song tree when he recorded "The Green, Green Grass of Home", so he naturally turned to the same tree when apple-picking time came again. His current release, like the "Grass" number, is a past country hit, "Detroit City". The Danny Dill-Mel Tillis tune out of Cedarwood's song catalogue was a big record for Billy Grammer and Bobby Bare, not to mention Ben Colder.

A new release on RCA Victor by Justin Tubb features two new tunes written by the singer, "But Wait There's More" and "The Second Thing I'm Gonna Do", both published by Tree Publishing Co. The session was produced by Bob Ferguson.

Dottie West's husband, Bill, plays steel guitar and leads the band in her act and they have two sons who are already active in the music business. Now, Bill's mother, Mrs. William West, has contributed her talent to the family effort by writing the liner notes of Dottie's forth-coming album, "Dottie West Sings Sacred Ballads". The collection of Bill McIlhiney arrangements uses the Jordainaires and a nine-piece string section on "I Believe", "You'll Never Walk Alone", "The Lord's Prayer", and others.

This year's schedule for New Orleans' Summer Pops, Inc., will feature two evenings (July 7 & 8) of the music of Chet Atkins' guitar, according to Mary McCann, Executive Director of the series. Material for the two 8 p.m. performances will include "Laura's Theme", "Cold, Cold Heart", "Windy and Warm", "Tennessee Waltz", "Orange Blossom Special", "I'll Fly Away", and "Drown in My Own Tears".

A new twist in instrumentation has just been released by RCA Victor. Violinist Roddy Bristol's first waxing for the label, "Sweet Dreams" b/w "Bonapart's Retreat", was lifted from the album, "The Nashville Sound String Quartet featuring Roddy Bristol" (Victor 47-9099), which will be released in April. The Don Gibson and Pee Wee King tunes are no strangers to the violinist, who has had vast experience with both Western bands and symphonies. Bristol is currently recuperating from a heart attack of last December.

Capa Thrush, Kitty Hawkins' latest offering, "Forgetting You" is hitting many regional charts across the country and is presently bubbling under the national charts. Heavy air action in Metro markets, including Chicago, Newark, Atlanta, New Orleans and others. Pointing up to be her biggest release to date.



DON ADAMS, recording artist for the newly-formed Country & Western label, JACK O'DIAMONDS, has recently joined the fine talent line-up at the Wil-Helm Agency, Nashville, Tenn. Shown here, making "official" what is sure to be a long & profitable relationship for all, are (l to r)—BEN KEITH (Producer), SMILEY WILSON (Pres., Wil-Helm Agency), ALEX ZANETIS, (Pres., Jack O'Diamonds, Inc), and DON ADAMS.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

The largest record breaking crowd to ever jam-pack the Joe Freeman Coliseum grounds, 61,202 people, overflowed every inch of the exposition and surrounding area to set a new all-time single day mark. The Sunday record brought overall attendance for the first three days to 155,804, which is 8,220 more than the same three days record period last year. Both rodeo performances starring Judy Lynn were sell-outs and a total of 17,758 people saw the two Sunday shows, pushing the rodeo attendance to a new record mark of 52,491 for the first six performances. Stock show officials pointed out they have parking facilities for 12,000 cars and all available space was taken Sunday, which was Rio Grande Valley Day and Day of the Americas at the Exposition.

Janet McBride & Vern Stovall, Longhorns successful singing team, are on the road playing tours across the country. Presently in Ontario, Canada for a week's stand at the Edison Hotel. Their first Album, "Country Dozen" has received dozens (Country that is) of station listings and new singles will be pulled shortly.

Frank Darris, Thunder recording artist, and his trio are busy hitting the rodeo circuit these past weeks. The Arizona based group have been headlining rodeos, clubs and stage shows throughout the Arizona area. Plans call for a new recording session, a national tour and an overseas jaunt.



A recent Decca recording session found Decca A & R Chief Harry Silverstein in a pow wow with artist Earl Scott and Scott's manager Jimmy Key (left). Result was agreement that Scott's treatment of "CHANGING ARMS" is in the hit category. Disc is being released this week backed with "MY EX MRS. BROWN".

Betty Bee a country gal from Pittsburgh, Pa., recently back from Nashville, Tennessee where she recorded an album for VOKES Records has a definite hit in her latest single on Vokes titled: "JUDGE OF HEARTS" b/w "I'VE GOT MY HONEY". HOWARD VOKES, Mr. Country Music in Penna., is very high on Miss Bee, and predicts that "JUDGE OF HEARTS" will take BETTY into the country music charts, and she'll be a new female singer to be reckoned with. Vokes goes on to say, "we have the sound, the backing, great singing, but most of all the best in promotion." "JUDGE OF HEARTS" without a doubt will be a smash. D.J.'S can have as many copies as they wish by writing VOKES RECORDS, INC., P.O. Box 1203, New Kensington, Pa. 15068.

In a statement issued today, Marve Hoerner stated that he will move all his activities back to Illinois, in order to better serve his clients and the radio stations in general. Hoerner, active in public relations, has recently opened a personal management agency and a separate booking agency. In the statement, Hoerner said, "I will miss Nashville but by being centrally located, I feel that we will be in a better position to help our clients and the radio stations. We have enlarged our activities. . management, public relations, promotion and bookings. . and needed a central location badly." He will continue to represent the various labels and individual recording artists, now represented by him in Nashville, along with a larger expansion in the record promotion field. In his personal management operation, he recently signed Vernon Glen (Illinois); Bobby Parrish (Florida); Miss Linda Cassady (Illinois); Lee Duncan (Georgia) and 'Little' Vern Davis of Wyoming. It is expected that other recording personalities will shortly sign with him.

Hoerner also heads, "Marty Deacon Enterprises", which handles all his gospel music activities, including his nationally read columns, recordings, along with stage productions bearing his name. A prospective radio and television show is in the immediate future.

Formerly located at Suite 202, RCA Bldg., here in Nashville, his new address will be P. O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois 61310. He reminds all radio stations and everyone working in the country and gospel music fields, to remember the new address.

BOBBY GREGORY'S new MELBOURNE release "WHO'S GONA WASH OUR LAUNDRY" (If China Goes To War) and "LONG HAIRD FELLERS AND SHORT HAIRD GALS" breaking big in Canada, also to be released in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania etc. tunes are from Bobby's "Country Comedy" album.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Little Jimmy Dickens doesn't spend much time at home nowadays because of one of the heaviest appearance schedules in Country Music. However, a long absence from the Grand Ole Opry stage was terminated last month when he nearly hid again behind the famous mike. Two consecutive weekend appearances were made by Dickens and the response was enthusiastic.

1967's first tremendous box office successes have been reported drawn by a package set up by the Bob Neal Agency of Nashville in cooperation with MCN Productions of Regina, Canada. In four locations of the six day tour the buildings were a complete sell out before show time! SONNY JAMES and THE MINUTE MEN, CONNIE SMITH and her band, and JOHNNY PAYCHECK with DAVID HOUSTON made up the package which appeared in Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, Red Deer and Calgary. Despite typical midwinter weather conditions, complete sell outs were reported from Regina, Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary with most of the towns being a two show presentation. Reports from one of the locations, Edmonton, credited the package with grossing more than \$5000 in excess of a Buck Owens package which appeared there a week earlier. The tour was a key note for a record February business for the Nashville based Neal Agency.

SONNY JAMES, Capitol Records' Southern Gentleman has won a bout with Asiatic flu. On a highly successful tour of Western Canada, James apparently got the "bug" and for two days was seriously ill while in Calgary. The illness, which also affected other members of the troupe, forced Sonny to miss the Vancouver appearance of a star studded tour in which he was taking part. However, true to the old tradition, the show went on at Vancouver with the other stars on the package, STONEWALL JACKSON, CONNIE SMITH, JOHNNY PAYCHECK and DAVID HOUSTON carrying on. "Sonny is fine now and back into action in the busiest February schedule he's ever had", said manager Bob Neal.

Tree Publishing Co. President Jack Stapp returned home today from the first leg of his 1967 overseas activity to establish foreign subsidiaries of his music publishing firm. Stapp was met with tremendous encouragement for this activity in the form of phenomenal success of Tree songs - especially "Green, Green Grass of Home" - in the countries he visited.

"Little" Vern Davis, TNRT Recording artist, becomes part of the "Nashville Rebel" in participation only. The Wyoming radio and TV star, headlined the "live" Nashville action in connection with the showing of the "Nashville Rebel" film in the Casper Wyoming area. Davis stated, "After seeing the film numerous times, I felt like a Nashville rebel myself".

If you were missed in the original mailings and would like to find yourself in Wizard Country, the following new releases are available for the asking: Linda Cassady's, "Trouble Is A Thing Called Love"; Jack Nelson's, "Frost On the Glass"; George Main's, "Stop And Go"; and Buck Cody's "You Love Me So Much I Can't Breathe", send your request to Wizard Records, Suite 202, RCA Building, Nashville, Tenn.

The record-breaking WPLO Shower of Stars audience, the Country Artist of the Year Award, and the Legislative presentations all follow on the heels of the news that WPLO recently had the biggest audience rating increase in its history. "The WPLO Western Gentlemen and staff, are walking on a pink cloud", said Red Jones, Program Director. "We have a wonderful audience, and those great C & W people and their music to thank. It's going to be a great year at WPLO." The WPLO Western Gentlemen include John Fox, Rick Fight, Chuck Kirk, MacCurtis and Johnny "K", with Red Jones as Program Director.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Ralph Emery will be leaving mikeside occasionally in order to travel with the Hank Williams, Jr., road show. The addition of the widely-known WSM DJ to the busy Williams package was announced by Buddy Lee of Aud-Lee Attractions. Emery's next ABC-Paramount release is expected in about three weeks.

Murv Shiner's first release on the MGM label will be out March 13, according to Jack Clement, who produced the session. The songs are "Big Brother", a Clement composition, and "Pool Shark".

1967 will witness "The greatest arrays of Country entertainment" yet assembled in five American cities, according to Buddy Lee of Aud-Lee Attractions. Citizens of Houston and 4 other as-yet-un-named cities will have the opportunity to see an unprecedented number of top acts on the spectaculars, all of which will be arranged, be packaged and promoted by Lee and business partner Audrey Williams.

Merle Haggard, recent winner of "Top Male Vocalist of 1966" at Academy of Country & Western Music's 2nd Annual Awards Show, The Strangers and Bonnie Owens have just completed a successful tour of one-niters through Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Texas, open March 23 through April 8th at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

In a major move to expand his personal management agency, Marve Hoerner announced today the signing of two additional recording personalities to his agency. Lee Duncan, Atlanta, Georgia, and Miss Linda Cassady, Rushville, Illinois, are the latest to sign contracts with Hoerner. Lee Duncan, popular radio-TV personality, of Atlanta, will cu a waxing session for a major label this week. Announcement of the label's name will be made at a later date. Duncan has had numerous releases on the market and will begin booking nationally shortly. Linda Cassady, 'Miss Petite' of Wizard records, has appeared throughout the midwest and recently completed a tour in Illinois with Ernie Ashworth. Her latest, "Trouble Is A Thing Called Love", is showing excellent sales action, as well as DJ action. Duncan and Miss Cassady, join Vernon Glen and 'Little' Vern Davis in signing personal management pacts with Hoerner. Additional acts are expected to join the agency, but names were withheld at this time.

Ask Tree writer Curley Putman what his favorite color is and stand back for him to shout "GREEN"! Part of the "long green" that has been earned by his phenomenal composition, "The Green, Green Grass of Home", has been spent on a new Cadillac and you guessed the color - - green!



NEW VICTOR SIGNEE Maria Dallas (center) label reps Felton Jarvis (left) and Chet Atkins listen to playbacks of the young New Zealander's first Nashville recording session on Record Row. (see story)

Henderson Broadcasting Company has filed application with the FCC to purchase WMTS in Murfreesboro, an outlying community of Music City. The announcement was made this week by Mary Reeves, President of Jim Reeves Enterprises, as well as Prexy of the Broadcasting Company which owns and operates KGRI in Henderson, Texas. WMTS, one of the most powerful stations adjoining Nashville and which operates on the low frequency of 810 with an AM power of 5,000 watts, uses a Country and Western format. It's FM affiliate, with 36,000 watts, runs around the clock. Mrs. Reeves, widow of the late Country and Western star Jim Reeves, said Tom Perryman will become station manager after FCC approval of the transfer. Perryman, present manager of KGRI, is a onetime assistant manager of The Grand Ole Opry on WSM and is a partner in Henderson Broadcasting. The purchase is to be made from present owner, Jack Erhart. KGRI is the first station on which the late Jim Reeves worked as a D.J. before he became prominent as a recording artist. He bought the outlet in 1959. Jim Reeves Enterprises, owner of half the Broadcasting firm, operates Acclaim, Open Road and Tuckahoe Music Publishing Companies as well as a number of other businesses.

The addition of Boone recording artist Chuck Howard to the star-filled line up of Key Talent Inc. was announced today by President Jimmy Koy. Howard will be represented exclusively by Key Talent on all personal appearances. Already well known for his smash recording of "A Thing Called Sadness" which he also wrote and which has since become a country-pop standard, Chuck has a new release moving up the charts entitled "You Don't Have Time For Me".

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Billy Ed Wheeler, Kapp artist and Buz Wilburn firm up an Artist-Personal Manager contract at Wheeler's Swannanoa, N.C. studio. Wilburn's efforts for Billy Edd will embrace the artist's several interests, including play-writing, poetry writing, in addition to concert and Radio-TV appearances. Wilburn's Nashville office will also represent Wheeler's Sleepy Hollow Music Corp. Wheeler is booked by the Bob Neal Agency of Nashville. Wilburn's past artist-management activities have included the Statesmen-Blackwood Quartets, The Prophets and Alex Harvey.

When Monument recording artist Billy Walker issued forth his latest single entitled "Anything Your Heart Desires", his better half took him seriously. On March 1, the Walker family moved into their brand-new Spanish-style home, complete with courtyard, which flanks the 7th hole of the Blue Grass Country Club Golf Course in Hendersonville, Tenn. Such a move left little doubt as to what Mrs. Walker, mother of four, desired most of all - - besides a hit record, that is.

Cedarwood Tunesmith Mel Tillis apparently has another "standard" to his credit and the song is new. Tillis himself has recorded "Ruby", along Waylon Jennings, Roger Miller, and Johnny Darrell, who now has a fast-climbing single on it out. The list has just been increased for "Ruby" cuts, as it was included in the last Burl Ives session.

Bobby Parrish (Florida), Curtis Keene (Nashville), Jody Rowe (Texas), and Nashville Comedian, Leon Douglas, stepped to the recording mikes in 'Wizard Country' (Fred Foster Studios) and all cut their first sessions for the Wizard label. Sessions were cut in one day of waxings. The fast growing label has scheduled early release dates on all the artists.

Kitty Hawkins release on the Capa label, "Forgetting You", continues to move up the regional and national charts. Sales action continues and it is proving to be her biggest record to date. The jocks are on it and definitely are not "Forgetting" this outing.

Arrangements have been completed for the Jimmie Klein Agency to handle all bookings for RCA Victor's man of many talents, Archie Campbell, according to Jimmie Klein, agency executive. The firm also represents such C & W stalwarts as Connie Smith, Lonzo & Oscar, Harold Morrison, and The Blue Boys.

IRENE BELLE and SKIP GRAVES scored big last week on their western tour promoting their current Stadium Record hot-plays, "Queen of Sheba" and "You Tell Me". Skip currently spins Country hits on KCIN Radio in the Beautiful Apple Valley, Victorville California between P.A. hops. . . Irene is set for club appearances San Francisco-to-L.A. Another Stadium pactee DON RICE studio'ed last week to master a new mess of mighty mountain music, to be released March 6th. Stadium is accelerating their recording activity and plan three new releases within the next thirty days, according to label bozz AL MINTO.

The impact of Chet Atkins in all musical markets picked up additional momentum this week with the release of his latest single on RCA Victor. "What'd I Say" b/w "Charlie Brown" will bring back fond memories to rock enthusiasts and will certainly convey the Atkins mastery to even a wider range of fans.

C/W music got another shot in the arm in the New York metro market last Friday (the 24th) when "King of the Yodelers", KENNY ROBERTS, appeared on the popular afternoon "Joe Franklin" show over WOR-TV. Kenny's current Starday outing "BLUE" is getting heavy air-play on several New York area country stations, and he has been making considerable appearances in the New Jersey and Long Island areas this past month.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Smooth-voiced DOUG WARREN sporting quick action on his double-sided dandy "I'll Take The Heartaches" b/w "Comin' Home To You". TOM SAWYER, promo dynamo for the Doug Warren office reports a pile of picks garnered on his last two weeks' 11 state western radio station tour. Doug has been called, with good reason, the smoothest new voice around Country. With legitimate theatre background and intimate audience repore, charms audiences wherever he goes. He'll go a long way.

In a joint statement issued today, Buster Doss, Gen. Mgr. of Wizard Records, and Shot Jackson, Manager of Miss Donna Darlene, announced that the Nashville recording artist had recently signed a recording pact with the Wizard label. Miss Darlene, formerly of Kapp Records, will have her new release on the market this week.

LEON DOUGLAS, Nashville's gift to the world of comedy, recently signed a recording contract with Wizard, with his first release scheduled to be a strong Buddy Mize tune. Douglas, currently on an extended Ill. tour will enter the recording studios shortly.

A songwriter with a profitable past and a profitable present naturally works toward a fruitful future, and John D. Loudermilk is no exception. His "Then I'll Tell You Goodbye", a big hit for the Cassinos, is currently the top rated song on both Nashville Pop stations and is rapidly racing toward the same position nationally. To assure a continuation of this productivity, Loudermilk leaves this week for a quiet visit with the sea on North Carolina's Outer Banks, where he plans to live in his camping trailer and roam the beaches until he's satisfied with the songs he has written during the stay. The Cassinos are hoping for another hit out of the trip.

Tommy Ingram bounced back from the sick list and is busier than ever playing personals with his band, The Star-lighters, throughout the Detroit area. Having been sidelined for a considerable length of time, Ingram is readying a recording session booking dates into the Fall season.

Exclusive Tree writers Wayne Kemp and Onie Wheeler were busy in the recording studio Feb. 6. Producing both sessions, to be released on the Dial label, was Tree Publishing Co.'s Executive Vice-President Buddy Killen.



A lovely young lady that many professionals describe as the heir to the Queen of Country Music title has been signed by the Hubert Long Talent Agency. Tammy Wynette, daughter of a traveling musician, comes to Nashville from the deep South. Her unique combination of talents have impressed HLTa executives, Shorty Lavender, John Owen and Louie Dunn, to the extent that special care will be taken to spotlight Tammy during the formative first months of her professional life. Tammy first came to Nashville with the intention of becoming a non-performing songwriter. Sharp-eared Billy Sherill of Epic Records listened to Tammy's delivery of several original songs, then pressed Epic's New York office with glowing accounts of the new recording find he had just discovered. Epic gambled with Tammy's interpretation of "Apartment No. 9", a song already in the charts and it paid off with a strong identification for the "new girl". Hubert Long describes Tammy's voice as being "distinctively different". She has an exceptional range, especially in the soprano medium and uses it effectively in over-dubbing harmony on her recording sessions. Her natural aptitude for recording is exhibited by the fact that her recording of "Apartment No. 9" was her first trip to a studio.

Buddie Lee has announced that Audrey Williams, who was hospitalized several weeks ago, is now out and about and has resumed traveling with Hank Williams, Jr., and "The Cheating Hearts". Her first trip out after the illness included Omaha, Milwaukee, and Louisville.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Radio Station KGBS, the Storer station for Los Angeles, today announced an overall price increase of 15%, according to Ralph Petti, General Sales Manager. With this announcement, Petti stated that the present KGBS advertisers would have six months rate protection. The increase will affect only the AM facility. KGBS-FM (formerly KFMU-FM) will continue with the card which was established on October 3, 1966, when it debuted under the new call letters. Petti cited the overwhelming listener response and advertiser acceptance the station has achieved in the market as the reason for the increase. KGBS AM inaugurated a country music format on January 3 of 1966. The rate increase was effective March 1, 1967.

* * * * *

The MGM album follow-up of "Those Singing, Swinging, Stomping, Sensational Stonemans" is due out in April or May, according to Jack Clement, album producer. Vocal variety will attract the attention of listeners to the package, as material ranges from "Winchester Cathedral" to "There Goes My Everything".

* * * * *

Jimmy Dicken's new Columbia release "Country Music Lover" has been censored in part by 50 thousand watt KGBS, in Los Angeles. The song contains the reference that "Johnny Cash is money kept in a commode. The commode has been eliminated by KGBS thru the use of the famous razor "coo-coo" sound. The rest of the record is being aired without censorship. The move thus far has been accepted by listeners but Columbia records is seeking to have the original word re-instated by the station.

* * * * *

The Willis Brothers are about as Country and Western as Oklahomans can be, but they're getting accustomed to the surroundings of the pop charts. Hal Neely, VP of Starday Records reports strong Pop action for the group's new release, "Bob", which presents the Willis Brothers with a new sound, created by indie producer Jack Clement.

* * * * *

Sonny James, top Capitol Records country-western artist has been signed for an appearance on the highly popular coast to coast Lawrence Welk TV Show on ABC TV, according to an announcement from his manager, Bob Neal of Nashville. James will tape the appearance in late March, and the show is scheduled to be on the air coast to coast on April 15th. "Sonny plans to feature "Need You" his current hit on Capitol Records plus other selections on this first appearance that he has made on the Welk Show," Neal said. This appearance points out a trend on the Welk Show in which several country artists have been featured in recent months.



Bill Anderson holds his First Annual WPLO (Atlanta, Georgia) Country Artist of the Year Award as he poses with (Back, L to R) WPLO Program Director, Red Jones; Decca Division Promotion Director, Roger Cleghorn; Bill and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Anderson. (Bottom, L to R) WPLO Deejays, Rick Fight and Johnny "K". Bill received the Award at the recent record-breaking Shower of Stars, featuring Don Gibson, Connie Smith, Ferlin Husky, Simon Crum and David Houston.

* * * * *

WHAT DOES SHE LOOK LIKE? That's the question from the dozens of D.J.'s who've 'picked' and are programming the most likely newcomer to the Country distaff department in some time. DONNA FARGO is a school teacher, but she's the prettiest, mod-est Country gal who ever chalked a blackboard with these famous words, "Would You Believe a Lifetime?" Her Ramco record is fast putting this booming recording dynasty of Phoenix on the entertainment map. For all you who have asked, "What does she look like?", a picture is forthcoming of this 23 year-old singing pretty Country Music has accepted so fast. IF you need extra copies of her exciting new Ramco reading, write BIFF COLLIE, 2021 Greenbrier Rd., Long Beach, Calif. 90815. In the words of TOM CROSS, KWOW Radio Pomona, California, who coined the paraphrase, "DONNA FARGO will go fargofargo-fargofargo".

* * * * *

NEWS NEWS NEWS



Camera Shy Dick Heard, manager of Johnny Dollar ducks out of view as a photographer catches (left to right) Jack Turner, Johnny Dollar, Gene Schibel, and Tom Donahue in a Washington D.C. bus terminal.

Both Johnny Dollar and the Country Music Gents spent the day in recording sessions. Johnny in D.C. the "Gents" in Nashville where they interrupted their busy schedule of bookings to prepare their first Wizard recording for the market.

This accidental meeting in Washington came about when Jack Turner, Tom Donahue and Steel Guitarist Gene Schibel missed their flight out of Nashville for Philadelphia, then jetted into Washington to connect with a bus line.

Meanwhile, Johnny Dollar was seeing off his manager Dick Heard when the two groups met and had a chat. Wouldn't you know it, Dick Heard missed his bus to New York. Oh well, you can't win them all.

During 30 years with RCA Victor, Hank Snow has received high ratings on popularity polls around the world, and there seems to be no letting up of this trend. A recent poll among Country Music fans in Holland, "The Country Roundup" placed the Singing Ranger between Buck Owens and Jim Reeves for the number two "Best Male Artist" position. The same poll listed Hank Snow and Anita Carter as one of the top vocal groups.

Two of the Pop field's most individualistic artists have been signed to Dial records contracts, according to the label's Executive Vice-President Buddy Killen. Clarence "Frogman" Henry, a New Orleans Bourbon Street favorite and Jimmy Soul have joined such R & B greats as Joe Tex on Dial. Both artists are scheduled for tours in England, Henry during March and Soul throughout April and May.

Dave Dudley last Friday received a congratulatory note from Sgt. Bill Boyd of the American Forces Network informing him that his recordings of "VIETNAM BLUES" and "COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE" were the No. 1 and No. 2 songs in Europe in 1966 and that his new single "MY KIND OF LOVE" appears destined for the same position this year.

HOWARD VOKES president of VOKES RECORD CO., with headquarters in New Kensington & Verona, Pa., will enter the album field about April, dealing of course with strictly country music and artists. The Vokes firm has had good success with country singles the past months, and have found ways to sell country records where others haven't. Under the new policy of a big sound for his label, Vokes has been getting the "NASHVILLE SOUND", and the results are that the Vokes discs are picking up a lot of air-play via the big stations. Last week Vokes headed his up-and-coming artist BETTY BEE into Starday Sound Studios, and recorded an entire LP on her, under the direction of Tommy Hill, ace A & R chief there. This album will herald the Vokes operation into the LP field about April, and the firm is going all out in the production of it, with some fancy new selling points jacket wise....

The older brother of Stonewall Jackson is getting a good start on his second career. Wade Jackson, 20-year Air Force veteran, has re-entered civilian life betting heavily upon Country Music and, with only one record release, has just signed booking arrangements with Moeller Talent, Inc., of Nashville. Jackson declares, "I've seen just about everybody's country but my own", so the new agreement with Moeller should serve the dual purpose of introducing him to America and America to him. Now an exclusive writer and recording artist for Starday, Jackson spent much of his military time in Special Services as an entertainer and made a good start in song writing several years ago with "Don't Be Angry", a major record for his brother.

Hank Snow recently left for a 15-day tour of the Far East, which will include a special TV appearance while he and his group are in Japan. Arrangements for Snow to do an hour-long spectacular were handled in Nashville by W. E. "Lucky" Moeller of Moeller Talent, Inc.

PAT SHIELDS, well-known man-about-country and proven powerhouse C & W Promotion man, currently mulling offers for company affiliation. Pat presently packaging a completely new Country program concept.

The Academy Of Country And Western Music Awards

COUNTRY MUSIC MAN OF THE YEAR - DEAN MARTIN
TOP FEMALE VOCALIST - BONNIE GUITAR
TOP MALE VOCALIST - MERLE HAGGARD
MOST PROMISING FEMALE VOCALIST - CATHY TAYLOR
MOST PROMISING MALE VOCALIST - BILLY MIZE
TOP VOCAL GROUP - BONNIE OWENS AND MERLE HAGGARD
MOST PROMISING VOCAL GROUP - BOB MORRIS AND FAYE HARDIN
THE BEST BAND - THE BUCKAROOS
THE BEST DRUMMER - JERRY WIGGINS
THE BEST BASS - BOB MORRIS
THE BEST FIDDLE - BILLY ARMSTRONG
THE BEST PIANO - BILLY LIEBERT
THE BEST STEEL GUITAR - (TIED) TOM BRUMLEY AND RALPH MOONEY
BEST T.V. PERSONALITY - BILLY MIZE
BEST PRODUCER/A & R - KEN NELSON, CAPITOL RECORDS
BEST TALENT MANAGEMENT - JACK MCFADDEN
BEST MUSIC PUBLISHER - CLIFFIE STONE
BEST RADIO PERSONALITY - (TIE) BIFF COLLIE AND BOB KINGSLEY
BEST NIGHTCLUB - THE PALOMINO

By Carol Hollis

Country Music has made great strides all over the world in the past few years. No better proof of this can be found than at the recent gathering of performers, writers, promoters, dee jays, musicians, and celebrities, at the second annual Academy of Country and Western Music Awards Presentation. It was truly a star-studded Monday night, March 6, 1967 at the Beverly Hills. Yes, Country Music goes uptown in grand style. An attendance of over 1200, were present for the gala affair. Just looking out across the tables was a breath-taking experience. A rainbow of colors with sprinkles of stardust would be as close of a description possible of the beautiful attire.

Yes, the setting was in an elaborate yet relaxed atmosphere. The friendliness and warmth of these country music people could be felt, and you had to be "touched" or "moved" thinking back when the first awards show was held in night clubs, with very few in attendance. Country Music has come a long way in 4 years. The people who originated the idea gave their time and effort, strived for a bigger, better

way of getting Country people together because they believed in an idea and believed in Country Music. The entertainers, Writers, Publishers, Club Operators, Radio Personalities such as: Eddie Miller, Mickey and Chris Christiansen, Tommy Wiggins, Tex Williams. These are the people who believed, and have seen their dreams come true, and you the public who believe and love Country music have helped more than you may realize in making this possible and in achieving these goals.

These same people who started out four years ago were these among the 1200 others anxiously awaiting with great anticipation, the awards to be given to the most deserving artists. An excellent choice for the last two years as Host and Narrator, Lorne Greene, (Mr. Bonanza himself). A fine performance by a great personality and great man. Some of the people who graced the stage and paid tribute in their own special way in presenting the awards were: Andy Devine, Judy Lynn, Chill Wills, Andrew Prine (of Road West), James Drury (of the Virginian), Nick Adams, Ken Curtis (better known as Festus of Gunsmoke), Micheal Landon (Little Joe Cartwright),



Left to Right. Accepting the top male vocalist award for Merle Haggard, Mrs. Jack McFadden, Bonnie Guitar (top female vocalist), Eddie Albert & Minnie Pearl.



Left to Right. Academies President Tex Williams and Secretary of the Academy Bettie Azevedo, Donna Douglas and Biff Collie.



Left to Right. Bob Morris (Bass), Billy Armstrong (Fiddle), and Billy Liebert (Piano)



Pat Bultram presenting the Radio Personality Award to tie winners Biff Collie (K-FOX) and Bob Kingsly (K-GBS)



Left to Right. Biff Collie (Radio Personality), Hugh Cherry, Pat Buttram and Bob Kingsley (Radio Personality)

Pat Buttram, Irene Ryan, and Miss Donna Douglas (stars of the Beverly Hillbilles), Bea Benaderet, (stars of Petticoat Junction), Eddie Albert, Minnie Pearl, Melody Patterson, Frances Preston, Brenda Scott, and Tex Williams President of the Academy of Country and Western Music.

Special added attractions of the world of Country Music were the following great performers: "Sons of the Pioneers," with their rendition of "Cool Water" and other favorites. When Mr. Tex Ritter sang "High Noon" and "Hillbilly Heaven" a great silence fell over the entire crowd - this great legend in Country Music captures an audience every time he steps upon the stage. As you listened and watched you felt a little chill go thru you. If you have ever seen him perform you know exactly what I mean.

Ray Price high-lighted the show, and kept you spellbound as only Ray can do with his "Danny Boy". I felt this is how it must be to sit and listen to the live recording of a closed session. Perfection to the highest degree. What a tremendous talent. Then, the wonderful Lady of song, Miss Bonnie Guitar, such a warm, sincere, friendly, person she is, and such a deserving talent of the Top Female Vocalist award, Then Tex Williams, the academies first President, you can always look for a great performance from this great talent. What a guy. He reaches you the minute he steps upon the stage. Also, the one and only Sheb Wooley, was there and then turned into Ben Colder, and this Ben Colder is

hard to believe even when you're seeing it with your own eyes. He brought the house down with his "Almost Persuaded No. 2". He's a funny, funny, man and that's putting it mildly.

The unforgettable, delightful (Wild Child) Roger Miller, sang "A Little Sunshine Song". Roger never changes, clowning thru the audience. This guy can make you laugh, when he says "hello" what a talent.

Stars were shinning everywhere. Robert Taylor, Ray Charles were among the movie, radio, and TV personalities there for the occasion.

Dean Martin was voted, "Country Music Man of the Year". Dean Martin has contributed so much to Country Music. As he says this is his first love - that makes us proud to have him on our side.

After the presentations there was another entertaining show in the Grand Ball Room with Jimmy Bryant, Harold Hensly, Buddy Emmons, Tom Tall, Skeets McDonald, Jerry Inman. As I said before, everyway you turned you ran into a star. Wes Buchanan, Thumbs Carlile, Chuck Howard, Rex Allen, Nudie (the Rodeo Tailor) and more, more, more!

The entire program was put in the very capable hands of KFOX. D.J. Biff Collie, who produced the the complete show. Congratulations Biff on a splendid job, well done. And also for winning the radio personality award two years in a row. We know with your outstanding ability it won't be the last.

A special recognition to Carl Cotner as Musical Director couldn't have been arranged and conducted any better.

Country Music is getting the exposure and recognition from the public that it has long deserved. We are proud of Country Music and the people who make up the world of Country Music. We are proud of their accomplishments.

Their musical expression has become a part of our lives, has added to our enjoyment as listeners, and in the broader sense, has become a part of our national heritage. This is the music that was born with America and it's here to stay!

If you missed this years awards show you owe it to yourself to be there next year. Will it be better next year? Yes, with the ability of the people in the business. It will and then I question, how can it be possible, this was the most impressive awards show I've seen, but as long as the people give the endless hours, contribute their ideas, put forth their greatest effort. You'll see a night like this again next year. Bigger? Better? of course.

Country Music has happened! It's climbing and fast, the only possible way it can go is UP! It was better and more rememberable this year than last. A beautiful sight to behold. I collected a lot of beautiful technicolor memories to put in my memory book and I am looking forward already to add to them next year.

Star Studded Opening Of Country Music **HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM**

The biggest news out of Nashville, Tennessee, last week was the opening of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum that attracted nearly three hundred country music stars and officials, business and government leaders.

Six long years of planning and hard work went into the construction of the beautiful building and the crowd of celebrities cheered enthusiastically as Roy Horton, Chairman of the Board of the Country Music Association, and Paul Cohen, President, cut the ribbons that officially opened the building at 6:30 p.m., on Friday, March 31.

Preceding the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Country Music world was praised and congratulated by Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington, U.S. Congressman Richard Fulton and Nashville Mayor Beverly Briley. All the festivities were picked up by NBC Television and by live TV and Radio broadcasts from Nashville stations.

It was a star studded occasion with country music greats like Eddy Arnold, Minnie Pearl and Webb Pierce on hand along with business leaders and music officials who had given thousands of dollars to see the building become a reality. But, the biggest star of all was the Hall of Fame and Museum itself, for every corner of the building was lauded for its beauty, variety of themes, and originality of design.

Among those who attended the opening and who had given many hours and ideas to the Hall of Fame were Bill Denny, President of Cedarwood Publishing Company and the son of the late Jim Denny who was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1966. CMA's Jo Walker, BMI's Frances Preston, DECCA's Owen Bradley, Tree Publishing Company's Jack Stapp were others whose creative work in behalf of the Hall of Fame has made it a distinctive tribute to country music and a major tourist attraction.

The Hall of Fame was built and will be operated under the auspices of the Country Music Foundation whose president is Steve Sholes of RCA Victor in New York and whose chairman of the board is Tex Ritter of Nashville. It was this organization which launched the drive to raise more than \$500,000 to finance the building.

From the outset the planners hoped that the building would be an artistic blending of sound and sight and their hopes have been brilliantly realized. The central section of the Hall of Fame and Museum is designed to have a barn-like shape as a symbol of rural America and is made of native brick, covered with a slate roof and fronted with multicolored glass

panels. This section is flanked by two wings of the same brick and is landscaped with twin fountains and pools.

The "Walkway of Stars" leads visitors to the entrance and is inlaid with names of artists who gave at \$1,000 toward the construction of the building. Inside, visitors can see and hear every facet of the wonderful world of country music from the gallery picturing stars who have been elected to the Hall of Fame to the theatre which features a film called "What's This Country Coming To".

One wing of the building holds a comprehensive group of displays on the origin, economic growth, and evolution of the music and colorful exhibits pointing up themes which writers use to compose a country melody.

A replica of an old country store has been built in this wing and through the windows country fans can see an old film of the classic of country music programs, THE GRAND OLE OPRY. Through another window there will be a continuous puppet show acting out the festivities of other famous country music programs. Here, too, the visitor can take a look at two cases of artifacts-fiddles, guitars, costumes, mementoes- which belonged to many artists and often played a significant or sentimental role in their careers.

The theatre is located in the north wing of the building along with unique displays which demonstrate how a song is recorded and how the record is manufactured. This area also holds an unusual exhibit, similar to a giant juke box, which offers colorful pictures of country stars and the music they've made famous.

Topping the whole spectacular array of sight and sound is the Hall of Fame loft where the library of reference books on country music is located and where a collection of rare old records has been placed. The loft will be open by appointment only to writers and students.

Members of the Country Music Foundation and the Country Music Association are looking forward to a busy and prosperous summer for the new Hall of Fame and Museum. The first paying visitors were admitted to the building at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 1, and more than six hundred others toured the building before closing time at 5:00 p.m. Three hundred and thirty-two persons visited the Hall of Fame on the following day. Admission charge is \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.



Needed - More Americans Like HANK SNOW

In January, a very significant letter arrived at Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch in Madison, Tennessee. It read:

Dear Hank:

Recently our son wrote us a letter and told of your coming to Viet Nam to entertain our soldiers there. You will never know how proud he was to hear you in person and, believe me, he said you put the Bob Hope Show to shame the way you put your show on under battle conditions. As I understand it, many of our troops have recommended you for a medal for your courage near the front. They say while within mortar range you put on the greatest show ever seen in Viet Nam.

You perhaps don't know, but once we had two sons in Viet Nam but our oldest son lost his life there in November, 1966. Our good friend Frank Shaffer wrote a song about our son and, though you will never hear it, we're proud our first born gave his life proudly to protect the freedom of our land.

In closing, let us thank you for your kind consideration for those who fight and die so our freedom can go on. We need more Americans like you, Hank, who don't fear to go where bullets fly to give our sons the entertainment they want - real American songs. We're so proud of you, Hank, and the others who go where men die to put on your shows.

- - A Fan

An analysis of why Hank Snow has such a strong fan following would take a whole year's output of COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE, but his trip to Viet Nam is a good indication of why the fans love him.

Hank's early life brought him into intimate contact with everyday people - farmers and fishermen, loggers and laborers - and he learned of their problems and thoughts because he was one of them, poor and hard-working with nothing but a lot of dreams. His concern for the every day people never diminished although fame was to put him in company of the elite.

Never forgetting that this fame was built on the fact that people like to hear him sing and that they want to consider him a personal friend, Hank has been careful to put the Golden Rule to use. "Without the help of some mighty fine people", he explains, "I would probably still be an unknown in Halifax, so the least I can do is help those who need a push."

A lot of entertainers have learned that Hank can be depended upon whenever such a push is needed, as he has long worked diligently on the behalf of

new talent. The career of Juanita Rose started an upward climb when Hank heard her sing on a show in North Carolina and she is now a regular member of his road show, along with the Rainbow Ranch Boys.

The same interest in others that has helped budding careers was what led him to Viet Nam during Christmas of 1966, as he had heard from some service men there about the critical need of entertainment for the troops.

After sending an armload of Country albums to a hospital in Viet Nam, Hank decided to add the personal touch by going to them in person. Although he received no pay for the trip, the pay of his band members went on as usual as they are all on his payroll.

The big reward, however, was being told, "We need more Americans like you, Hank".



"Fence-post philosophy" is what Hank calls the yarns he spins during an afternoon of leisure on his Madison, Tenn. ranch. His 30 years with Victor provide unparalleled stock for colorful and exciting stories about life in Country Music.



Home is where the heart is and Hank Snow's heart is at Rainbow Ranch, his diverse spread which contains priceless tokens accumulated thru the years as one of Country Music's most illustrious individuals. Son Jimmy lives on property which adjoins his famous father.

Hank's got enough broadcasting equipment at home to start his own radio station. Above, he is shown at one of the consoles from which he makes countless promo tapes for deejays across the country.



ON TOUR WITH Bill Anderson

Reporter Earl Simkin's of the Roanoke (Va.) World News, lived, ate and slept with Bill Anderson and the Po Boys for 10 days. Country Music Life is reprinting his story in five succeeding installations, as it originally appeared in the Roanoke World News.

PART 3

"The better things get the worse they are."

The speaker was pretty Bette Anderson, and "things" were the business of her husband, country and western singing star Bill Anderson.

She was sitting in the living room of their large and comfortable Nashville home which they call "Still Hill." The name is a tribute to a song written and recorded by Bill called "Still." It sold a million records for him.

"The better things get for Bill, the more shows he works," she explained, "and the more shows he works, the more he is away from home.

"Of course, it is not as bad as it could be. I guess I'm not as bad off as Tiki."

Tiki is the wife of another singing star, George Hamilton IV. They probably are the Anderson's closest friends in Nashville.

"At least Bill writes some songs and has his television shows. This means that he doesn't have to be on the road as much as George, since George doesn't write or anything. I feel sorry for her.

"Every year Bill says he is going to stay home more this year, but each year things have gotten better - or worse - and he has been gone more.

"He is changing his television show this year, though, and is going into Canada, so maybe he can be home more."

In fact, Bill already has made a proposal to his manager, Hubert Long, which would give him three or four days home every other week. Presently he is off only about five or six days each month, but a day off doesn't necessarily mean a day at home.

As Bill sat down to his first dinner at home in a couple of weeks, he told a guest, "My wife is a wonderful cook, and I guess that it is my fault that she is not better than she is.

"I am almost never at home to eat, even if I am in Nashville. If I were home more, she would cook more and that would make her even better.

"I know that I have the most wonderful wife in this business. I am very proud of her.

"I remember a lot of girls who were leaders in

various things and beauty queens in high school who just got lost once they graduated."

"Bette never was a cheer leader; she never was president of anything. She was just an average student who never did anything to attract attention. But she has become a beautiful woman, and she has to be the best wife in the world. I just wish I had more time to be a better husband to her."

Bette still gets back to Atlanta to visit relatives, but now it is "going back to Atlanta" and not "going back home."

"Nashville has really become home in the last year," she explained. "At first it was just the place where we lived. Then I began to like it better and now it has become home."

Although Bette is not seen too much by the public, she still has a large following of fans, as she learned when she celebrated a birthday recently.

Bill takes the month of December off each year so he can be with Bette and get ready for Christmas. This year was no exception. In addition he takes two weeks in July for vacation.

Their youngest daughter, Jennifer, nine months, stayed with grandparents in Atlanta this year, while they took the oldest, five-year-old Terri, to Daytona Beach for a week. Then Terri was brought back to Atlanta while Bette and Bill spent a week on an island off the South Georgia coast.

The remainder of the year, Bette says, she is "a music widow."

All of the wives are very close, though, she said, and they spend a lot of time together while their husbands are gone.

"Tiki and I spend a lot of time with our children. We are always taking them on picnics or to the park or some place.

"The children like it, and it makes the time pass more quickly for us until George and Bill come back home.

"But I do wish Bill could take more time off next year and stay home more."



Skeeter Davis & Bill Anderson's daughter, Terri

If country and Western singing star Bill Anderson ever writes his autobiography, he well could call it "Life on a Bus."

On a bus is where he and the boys in the Po' Boys band spend a great deal of their time. At various times the bus serves as bedroom, dining room, dressing room, recreation room as well as a vehicle of transportation.

This is not just an ordinary bus, though. It is equipped with bunk beds for six persons, in addition to a special room at the back in which Bill has a sort of office and bedroom combination. There are two bathrooms, an AM-FM radio - also a television set, but that is another story.

It was aboard this bus that the band and this reporter left Nashville at 2 a.m. (Nashville time, 4 a.m. Virginia time) Sunday morning. By the time the bus reached the city limits, everyone was in bed except the bus driver.

Due to the necessity of traveling great distances between shows as the Po' Boys do, the bus driver is an important member of the group. The bus driver in this group is Joe Dan Whitaker, who is known to the boys as "Whiz."

Whiz need say only a couple of words for one to know that he originally came from Texas, the second largest state in the union. He is very good at staying awake for long periods of time. In his job, this is very good.

Whiz was not exactly the calmest person on this tour, as he was expecting to become a father for the second time just any day. But, at least he made it back to Nashville in time, if not too soon.

Even Whiz tires out sometimes, though, as he did on this trip from Nashville to Waynesboro. He is relieved at various times by other members of the band, usually Jim Lance, a good driver, but a much better

guitar picker.

After getting in to bed after 2 a.m., only Lance, who was to take over the driving, and Jimmy Gately, who fronts the band for Bill, were in the mood for eating when the bus stopped for breakfast around 11 a.m. just before reaching Salem.

Thanks to the unbelievably tiring day before, some of the guys slept all the way into Waynesboro, making this one of the quieter trips which one will experience on this "Golden Goose," as they call it.

Whiz had made use of his bunk after eating breakfast, and Lance had driven on into Waynesboro.

After the trips the Po' Boys have made into Virginia recently - to Roanoke, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Richmond, Norfolk and other cities - they felt almost at home when they reached Waynesboro.

There were many friends and fan club members from Roanoke, Vinton and Salem on hand to greet them.

The occasion in Waynesboro was a performance at a race track outside of town as a part of the East Coast Talent Show. The show drew contestants from a large area and was sponsored by the Doom's Volunteer Fire Department as a fund-raising venture.

Fire department officials said the crowd this year probably was a little larger than last year, that the talent was as good or better, and that it was an all-around success.

Like any other band, the Po' Boys have certain areas in which they are more popular than in others. Bill's band does well in the Mid-West - the Ohio, Indiana, Michigan area - and in the Virginia-North Carolina - South Carolina area.

Perhaps a large part of his popularity in Virginia can be attributed to his television show, which is seen on Channel 10, WSLS-TV in Roanoke at 5:30 p.m. each Saturday.

This week, however, the show will change to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Also, sometime in October the format of the show will be changed. Bill will start filming the show in Canada instead of in Charlotte, N.C., as he has done in the past.

Also, it will be changed from a half-hour each week to two one-hour shows, which will be filmed so that they also can be run as four half-hour shows or as one two-hour show.

He received final word on this arrangement while on the tour.

From Waynesboro, the band left for Syracuse, and the New York State Exposition.

There still was another full night and most of the next day to ride the bus, but no one was quite as tired this night as when they had left Nashville early Sunday morning.

Sleeping on the swaying bus, though, is not the easiest or most relaxing thing in the world. But, it seems that anything is possible, if you get tired enough.

On Tour with Bill Anderson will be continued next month.

The Singing Ramos In VIET NAM

BY MARTY DEACON



"Many of these boys were just kids with a comic book stuck in one pocket and a machine gun in hand, but when they are called upon, in my eyes they stand as tall as men." As Buck Rambo spoke those words, he was staring at the ceiling, his mind back on the front lines in Viet Nam.

The Singing Rambos were quietly sitting in Don Light's office (Don is their manager-booker), discussing their trip to Viet Nam. With Buck, was his charming wife, Dottie, and lovely daughter, Reba. Also, with them was Miss Pat Jones, who plays bass with the group. Holding the captured Viet Nam flag (presented to them a few minutes after its capture), Dottie pointed out the dark spot on the lower right hand corner. In answer to my question, as to what it was, Dottie smiled and said, "blood." Turning pale, I sat back in the chair and our interview bagah.

"There's one experience that we will never forget," Dottie said quietly, "While we were in concert at a San Antonio, Texas, church . . . shortly before our Viet Nam trip . . . a four year old girl stood on

Posing for their last shot before take-off, are, (L-R) Buck Rambos, Ken Duncan (who booked them), Pat Jones, Reba Rambo, Dottie Rambo, and Don Light, their manager-booking agent.

one of the pews and shouted to us. "When you go to Viet Nam, please bring my daddy back with you! You can imagine how we felt. It was very difficult to continue. After the concert, the little girl came up to me and said, "If you can't bring daddy back, can I please go with you". We secretly hoped that we would be able to visit with her daddy while we were over there but considering how many servicemen were there, we really didn't believe it would happen.

While we were "resting" in Saigon, after our tour was over, the radio announced that we were entertaining there. Meanwhile, twenty-five miles away, Sgt. Kenneth Ward . . . the little girl's daddy . . . heard the news. Now the roads leading to Saigon are controlled by the Viet Cong and all transportation to outside districts is by helicopter. However, he wasn't discouraged and went to his commanding officer.



Having their final cup of coffee before take off, Buck's mother joins them. Seated between Buck & Dottie, she came hundreds of miles to see them off and also presented each one of them with a beautiful white corsage.

Believe it or not, he received a flying one day pass in Saigon. After hearing the knock on our hotel room door (by the way, we had Martha Raye's room and it still contained all her awards), and after answering, we found Sgt. Ward standing there. You will never know how much we enjoyed visiting and touring Saigon with him that day. It really was a dream come true. And to add to it all, Sgt. Ward, came home just two flights behind ours. You might say, we "almost" brought him back with us." An unusual but true experience. It is one the Rambos will never forget.

The tour that took them to the war zone . . . they requested outlying districts and posts . . . began one evening, when they received a telephone call from Ken Duncan (an Illinois booker and friend), asking them if they would like to be the first gospel music quartet to tour Viet Nam. "Yes," was their quick reply . . . and three months later . . . at 12:05 P.M., they boarded the jet at Nashville airport for San Francisco. We were honored to be included in the farewell party that cold and windy day.

As I sat and listened to their experiences, I jotted down thousands of words, but, to make this story more "factual" and, I hope, interesting, all the words in this story will be their comments, as they spoke in that quiet office, on the second floor of the RCA building.

"Most of the boys we seen in the audiences are young kids becoming men over night. They all seem like your kid brother, much to young to be in a place like this."

"Words can never describe what we saw, 'poverty, filth-ignorance', just aren't strong enough words. The traffic is something. Everyone either has a motor bike, bicycle, or some sort of contraption to travel on, and New York City traffic would be like traveling

on a lonely country road compared to Saigon. You don't need brakes, just a horn and lots of guts. Something like, 'who will chicken out first'."

"Every day we flew over actual ground fighting with the Viet Cong. We flew at an altitude of 5,000 feet and their automatic rifles are not accurate at this height. We were okay as long as the 'prop' kept turning on the 'chopper'."

"We can't really describe our programs over there. Maybe at night we'd sing for a whole base, then during the day hop out to a small camp of 30 to 40 men. We did one show that had not seen live entertainment in 10 months. At the end of this show, the men showed us their pet, an eight-foot python snake, which was very much a pet. We all held it, except Buck, he chickened out." (I'm with you, Buck!)

"At one of the stops, we visited the field hospital. This is where they bring the men directly from the front lines, for treatment. Walking through the hospital, you were very well aware of the fact that we are in a cruel war. Walking through the operating room, we saw doctors working frantically, trying to save a young man who had been shot in the head by a Viet Cong sniper. Despite their efforts, the young man died minutes later."

"We did one show within seven and one half miles of the DMZ (North Viet Nam). It was so muddy here that we all wore combat boots, even on stage. The program that afternoon was done in the usual down-pour of rain. The men in the audience were all combat veterans because in this area of Viet Nam, you become experienced very quickly. The rain and the mud was everywhere, but the satisfaction of knowing that you are reaching thousands of men, many who were hearing gospel music for the first time, some who were hearing it for the last time, took care of all the so-called hardships."

"Marty, you should have been with us. Part of the time you would be crying and other times laughing. At the end of our programs, we'd have the boys come up and help us sing some numbers . . . during one of these shows, suddenly everyone stopped singing and one of the men walked to the mike and began to welcome us, then he took off his battalion symbol red neckerchief from the 1st and 13th battalion and placed it around my neck (Dottie Rambos') making me a member and calling me their star. I thought I was going to pieces. Then they presented me with pins from other units, such as the Cobra pin from the Cobra gun platoon and also the Lancer pin from the Lancer gun platoon and another one came up and presented me with a Viet Cong flag they had captured."

"Many times we were close to the front lines. We were guarded as well as possible, but this is a dirty kind of war, you don't know who your enemy is and they could spring up anywhere at anytime. During one of our shows, you could see the fighting on the mountains, bullets and all, but we weren't too much afraid. We are too crazy to be scared."



The Rambos wave goodbye as they board their jet for San Francisco.



Playing four shows aboard the USS Ticonderoga, The Rambos were presented with a special plaque, the only one ever presented to a touring unit.



The champlain takes great delight in joining Dottie during one of her solo numbers. This combination was hard to top.



During a performance on the USS Ticonderoga, Reba entertains the Navy and they love it. Reba was the youngest performer ever to play a war zone area.

MIDWEST NOTES

down-hill without them in its last few months. Everyone's real anxious to hear news of the new club.

Did ya hear that "People Are Funny" type show on Mike Hoyer's Country Music U.S.A. show on W.H.O. a while back?? I'm talking about George Morgan's and Mike's all night "spoofing" of just about everyone and everything. . . other entertainers' actions, buggy fans, etc. This was all done in such a manner that no one could possibly be offended, showing that people can be funny and a bit strange at times. George was one of the most interesting guests to ever appear on the program we think. Other recent guests have included Charlie Louvin, Del Reeves, Loretta Lynn, Jack Webb, Billy Grammer and Johnny Western (who stops by the studios in Des Moines just to chat with Mike quite often.)

Marvin Hoerner's back in Illinois. . . welcome back Marv! Here is a guy who really lives up to the title of his column "On the Go".

It's time for Austin Wood's Nashville Opry Shows to begin for the summer season, at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. If you are planning your vacation in Missouri (and it's a mighty good place for one), drop Austin a line at KTTR, Rola, Missouri and ask for a brochure telling about the different Grand Ole Opry stars who will be appearing this year.

Our friend Chaw Mank, who COULD spend all his time writing books, if he didn't have a hundred other entertainment type activities too, (where he finds the time??!!) is at it again! He's still working on a book with stories on country music singers; plus. . . an unusual book concerning psychic, wierd and unusual experiences that various entertainers have gone through. Chaw's partner in the latter is Brad Steiger, well known for books on the "supernatural". If you are an entertainer (this includes disc jockeys too) and have something to contribute in the way of material, write Chaw Mank, Box 30, Staunton, Illinois,

My hometown of Decatur, Illinois, may be famous for something besides being the town fly swatters and hog rings were invented and the "Soybean Capital of the World", one of these days. . . I'd like to see a big sign with "Birthplace of Country Music Star Paul Martin" at the city limits! Paul's got a long way to go, but has plenty of talent, determination, help from other people, and a terrific record produced by Pete Drake! He records for Varsity records and the first release is "The Coward" (dj's when you play this don't skip the ending. . . that makes the whole story different!) b/w "Twenty Years Ago". Paul lives in Nashville now and is buying Del Reeves' home out near Madison.

Little Drake Bradley is a welcome addition to the staff at W.H.O.W., Clinton, Illinois. Drake recently joined Uncle Johnny Barton, Bill Ward, Pat Johnson, and Tom Morgan on the announcing scene at our local C & W outlet.

Don't forget to attend all the C & W shows you possibly can this summer.

CANADIAN NOTES

cording an album of fiddle tunes.

Webb Pierce was the special guest performer to celebrate "Mukluk Days" in Edmonton in mid-February.

The bad weather and storms in February gave Buck Owens and his show some problems. A show in Edmonton had to be cancelled and played at a later date due to the bad weather.

March 13, "Nashville Night" in Regina was a huge success. The Regina shows were a part of a Western Canada personal appearance tour and feature Dave Dudley and the Roadrunners, George Hamilton IV, Billy Grammar, Jimmy Newman, Bobby Bare and George Kent and his band from Nashville. The reason for singling out Regina's shows as "Nashville Night" was due to Dave Dudley's special "duty" in Regina. Dave presented a letter to Regina's Mayor Henry Baker bearing greetings from Nashville's Mayor Bev Bryly for Centennial Year 1967 and also for the outstanding support given to the C/W artists when appearing in Regina. Mayor Baker returned the greetings and thanked Dave and all the C/W artists for the enjoyment brought to Regina via the Country music shows. Mayor Baker also presented Dave with a Buffalo Plainsmen Hat which symbolizes Buffalo Days in Regina this summer from July 24 - Aug. 5. CKCK's Ron Andrews along with Charlie Underhill of MCM Productions who book the Western Canada tours, were largely instrumental in the success of "Nashville Night" in Regina. Dave also put on a show at a home for the elderly folks in Regina in the afternoon. Country D.J.'s from other radio stations in Sask. were on hand for the show and were welcomed by Ron Andrews. Ron has been a close friend of Dave Dudley and Bobby Bare for several years and had a day of ice-fishing planned for them, but most of the artists couldn't take the twenty below degree weather and went back to Nashville. As most everyone knows Dave Dudley and his wife Jean raise Basset hounds and Dave gave promoter Charlie Underhill an eighty pound Basset named Dooley. When charlie walks his dog down Regina's streets, it's going to be every man for himself.

The Troupadors Three from Saskatoon have recently signed a five year contract with Universal Performing Artists of Toronto for appearances in the USA and Canada. Their latest release is "Rail Rider" and is about Canadian railroads.

Latest reports from Montreal show that the C/W artists are keeping very busy there. Appearing at the "Blue Angel" is Bob Fuller. Before Bob moved to Montreal he was extremely popular in Western Canada where he had his own bluegrass dance band. Also at the "Blue Angel" are "The Country Allstars", Ruth and Bernie McLean, Earl Martin and Larry Douglas. Monday nights feature the Red River Play-

continued on page 39



The Rambos always included a "sing-a-long" during their performance. Here they are pictured aboard the USS Kitty Hawk.



Back from the rigors of C rations, Pat and Dottie order steaks aboard the USS Ticonderoga.

"One of our final stops was the USS Kitty Hawk. It looked like a postage stamp from the air. That landing on the carrier was another 'first' for us. We hit the deck at 110 miles per hour and you hope you never have to stop that fast again. We played to over 5,000 men on the Hawk."

"We played four shows on the USS Ticonderoga. This was a real thrill and the reception was out of this world. We were even presented with a large plaque, something that they have never done before. On the trip back to Saigon, we were escorted by fighter planes."

As I listened to the group inject various experiences into the conversation, I fully realized why they were looking forward to going back. Their hearts were still back with the boys. Space is limited . . . so, I've just hit on a very few of their experiences. To fully cover their trip and tour to Viet Nam would take thousands of further words.

As Buck Rambo, quietly gazed at the wall, he made this statement . . . a statement that sums up all the Rambos feelings . . . "If I ever hear anyone criticizing our men and the war effort in Viet Nam, it will make me very unhappy because their sacrifice at home is so small. As far as I'm concerned, every man in Viet Nam is a hero." Buck, may I add my complete agreement.



CARL SMITH

& COMPANY

Big Doings At CFTO

Things have gotten a little quieter at the studios of CFTO-TV in Toronto for a while, at least, because all the shows for the current season of "Carl Smith's Country Music Hall" have been taped.

For the show's tall, jovial star from the hills of Tennessee, completion of the taping merely meant a little more time which could be spent on his beautiful ranch in the county next to Nashville with his vivacious wife, Goldie, their children, and the dogs, horses, and cattle which make the Smith ranch a perfect environment for children.

However, for the many Canadian fans who clammer regularly for tickets to see the actual taping of the popular Canadian Television Network offering, the completion of this year's taping meant having to wait

until early summer 'til things get to rolling on Carl's fourth season, his second in color. Just how popular Columbia's "Country Gentleman" is in Canada was indicated last summer in Nashville when a visitor from Hamilton, Ontario, told a local entertainer, "You may have the Grand Ole Opry here and I've certainly enjoyed being in Tennessee, but WE'VE got Carl Smith in Canada!"

"Having Carl Smith" shows up strongly on Canadian TV ratings, too, and everybody from the sponsoring Lever Brothers and producer Sidney Banks, to Nashville talent magnate Lucky Moeller who

Master guitarist MERLE TRAVIS (right) demonstrates his finger dexterity as host Smith looks on.



THE GOSPEL TRAIL

situation. It took about twenty minutes to get everyone reseated and the program back on schedule. With their 'new full sound' (they recently added guitar and drums to their show), I felt that they had a real 'hot' act . . . now I know!

Just chatted with J. D. Sumner, leader of the famous Stamps Quartet. One of the real gentleman in gospel music and the world's 'lowest' bass singer. They have a brand new album out plus an addition of a fine guitarist, Jimmy Dumas, to their stage appearances.

The Singing Rambos had the 'experience' of their careers, when they recently played in Viet Nam. . . the first gospel act ever to play in a war zone. Hope you read the feature story in this month's publication . . . feel you will gain a better insight on the overseas situation. . . I know I did. The group has a new Heart Warming album, that is 'selling' like they were going out of style. Simply titled, "The Singing Rambos", it features "The Old Home Place" among others. A REAL fine album.

We could go on and on, with gospel news, as the groups are making news everyday. Exciting things are happening in the field and, we hope, this column will be a part of those happenings. We'll also be doing 'profiles' on the various groups in "Country Music Life" at various times. Hope you'll be looking for them in future editions.

If, at times, you feel slightly depressed, why not place a gospel album on your phonograph and relax to the inspirational music. It is, by far, the very best 'pill' you'll ever find.

* * * * *

Although many of the leading gospel quartets are residing in Nashville, there remains a great wealth of gospel talent in all sections of the nation. These are the groups and individuals that are becoming the "grass roots" of the gospel field. A charming young lady from Williamsburg, Kentucky, is just such an individual. We had the pleasure of chatting with her a few weeks ago and listening to her first album, "One Of God's Sheep". Lois Jane Neal is just seventeen and has been entertaining since she was three. This little girl with the big big voice, sells the material on her first recorded effort. Among our favorite cuts were, "Wait For The Light To Shine", "Singing On The Other Side". . . in fact, she displays excellent talent throughout. She's also featured on the Wally Fowler TV Syndicated gospel show.

The Lester Family of St. Louis, Mo., recently signed with Ted Tillman and Associates of that city, one of the oldest theatrical producers in the mid-west. This will be that agencies first venture into gospel music.

Mom Speer is featured on the Speer Families latest Heart Warming album, their fourth for that excellent label. Their 18th recorded album, it features Mom Speer on six of the selections. Presently they

are preparing to record a hymn album, which is scheduled for an early recording session.

ODDS 'N' ENDS:

J.D. Sumner and the wonderful Stamps Quartet recently purchased new Fender Guitars and we expect great things from their "New" sound. Ferlin Huskey recently cut a new gospel album for Capitol and does he deliver on "I'll Fly Away". Fine session. Ditto excellent session for the Frost Brothers (Heart Warming artists) and Warner Macks new one is a must. Couldn't keep my hands and feet still when Jake Hess and The Imperials cut their latest for Heart Warming. Their sessions are a must to attend if you ever have the chance. . . an excellent group. Heart Warming's dynamic A & R man, Bob McKensie knows what he wants and he gets it.

Gospel music moved still another step forward when the Gospel Music Association announced the opening of their new office in Nashville. At the same time, GMA stated that Miss LaWayne Satterfield had been hired as their executive secretary. The new office will be the central point of contact for all business of the GMA.

Our hat is tipped to Porter Wagoner and the Blackwood Brothers, for taking the coveted Grammy Award. Their gospel album, "Grand Old Gospel", won as the best Sacred Recording.

Jake Hess and The Imperial's appearance on the popular ABC-TV show, "American Swing Around", marks a first for gospel music, as they were the first gospel quartet to appear on the Chicago originated program. Mr. Hess, with offices in the RCA Building in Nashville, is now representing, in Nashville, Mr. Mosie Lister, one of the finest gospel song writers. What I want to know is, just where does Jake find the time. A mighty busy man!

We'll close this column with these words by Chateaubriand. . . "Music is the child of prayer, the companion of religion." God Bless.

CANADIAN NOTES

boys featuring Doreen Boyd. At the "Times Square" is the new Scotty Stevenson group; at the "Wagon-wheel" are two groups, Helen and the Honeycombs, and Pete and the Country Gentlemen. The "Monterey" features the Stoltz Brothers and the "Country Palace" boasts Dugas Trineer along with a big-name Country star each week. At the "Riverview" are the Mohawks, an Indian styled Country band, where they've been appearing for the past three years now.

George Hamilton IV's new release of "The Urge For Going" was written by Joan Mitchell who is originally from Saskatoon and now living in Winnipeg.

Joanie writes folk-country style songs and is a recording artist in her own right. She and her husband Chuck Mitchell travel extensively for personal appearances.



Country Music's biggest acts make guest appearances on Carl's show. Above, a "fellow with a pretty good show himself", Porter Wagoner, watches on while Carl cuts up for "pretty Miss Norma Jean".

arranges all guest appearance on the show, seem happy enough to keep doing what they're doing now for a long time.

"Carl Smith's Country Music Hall" blends a tasteful serving of steady Country fare with such guests as Bill Anderson, Ferlin Huskey, Grandpa Jones, the Osborne Brothers, Merle Travis, and Waylon Jennings. Nashville recording exec Tommy Hill (who is also Carl's brother-in-law) is leader of the show's regular band, the Maple Creek Boys. Guitarist Roy Penny was voted Canada's Number One instrumentalist last year and steel guitar man Johnny

Seibert has become synonymous with his long-time boss as a vital part of the "Carl Smith Sound".

The band also includes Bill Gibson on bass, drummer Gary Owens, and French-Canadian fiddler Paul Menard. Petite vocalist Diane Leigh fills out the regular staff of the show, which has also been an important showcase for many of Canada's most brilliant up-and-coming acts, including such talents as Cy Anders, Buster Brown, Irwin Prescott, Ron McLeod and Sharon Strong.

So, regardless of the troubles that seem to accompany Country Music TV in the United States, Canada seems to have found a sure-fire solution: Carl Smith! And look where they found him: The American hotbed of Country Music, Nashville, Tennessee.



PAUL MOORE



Paul Moore's plunge into Country Music evidences another aspect of his versatility. The former dentist is also a qualified pilot, horseman and songwriter.

WHERE HE BELONGS

There's an old saying about the impossibility of getting the Country out of a boy and another one declares that music can get in one's blood and stay there. Dollie Records' "Singing Dentist", Dr. Paul Moore, can testify to the truth of both statements. Although not actually a "country boy", Paul's boyhood in the city of Nashville made him thoroughly familiar with the ways and music of the rural South and no one loved this music more than the Moore boy did.

Being in Nashville, Paul's father had seen and heard a lot about some musicians that were not much of a credit to music and he didn't like the idea of his son becoming a musician, although Paul showed an early aptitude for both the mandolin and guitar. Therefore, the youngster began thinking seriously about something else that interested him, dentistry.

The hobby of music was always around: Paul and a fellow Scout named Pat Boone got together a lot and sang for the entertainment of each other and he was in heavy demand for square dances while attending Vanderbilt University. His natural ability of

meeting people brought him into contact with a lot of Country Music people but he continued toward the goal of being a dentist.

As the hand of time led Paul into his own dentistry office in Pulaski, Tenn., and to a wife and family, he gradually realized more and more that he would never be able to get completely away from the music business that he had always been so close to but had never been in.

A lot of his friends in Country Music assured him that he had a fighting chance in the business but none of them believed that ANYONE would give up a successful dental practice for the uncertainties of show business. Yet, Paul came to realize that he was a country boy at heart and an entertainer by the virtue of a God-given talent.

Therefore, today Paul is in his second year of professional music and is well on the way to becoming a major artist. The dreams he shared as a youngster with Pat Boone are at last coming true and Paul is where he belongs - - smack dab in the middle of Country Music.



One of Dr. Paul Moore's staunchest and earliest boosters was Oscar Davis, Country Music's "Baron

of the Box Office". Above, the two confer on musical matters.

SOUTHEAST NOTES

Continued from page 11

Show at Altoona, Penna.; May 19, George Jones, The Kitty Wells Show, Waylon Jennings, and Carl & Pearl Butler at Alexandria, Va.; May 20, George Jones, Melba Montgomery, Waylon Jennings and Carl & Pearl Butler at Johnstown, Penna.; also May 20, The Kitty Wells' Show and David Houston at Chambersburg, Penna.; May 21, Waylon Jennings and Carl & Pearl Butler at New Tripoli, Penna.; also May 21, The Kitty Wells Show at Culpeper, Va. Also Jim Clark lists June 10, Hank Snow, Waylon Jennings and more at Altoona, Penna.

Saturday, April 15th (8 PM) is the date and time of WBMD's next Country Jubilee. Another big show in the WBMD tradition, this show will star Don Bowman, Connie Smith, Minnie Pearl, The Wilburn Brothers, and Marty Robbins. Tickets may be ordered from WBMD, 21 W. Chase St., Baltimore, Maryland. The January Country Jubilee Show was, a double treat for area fans because not only was it a big show; but, it also gave us a chance to see two old friends, both from the "Stringdusters Band" in their new roles as Nashville sidemen - Bill Anderson's steel-man Sonny Garrish and Dottie West's drummer Bob Taylor.

Our best wishes are extended to area vocalist Janie Scott who recently left the profession to become a Mrs.; To Bill Harrell on his recent "union" with Red Smiley and their "signing with" the WWVA Jamboree; and to The Compton Brothers on their receipt of an award from Triple "G" Promotions of Michigan during a recent appearance in Flint.

The big news around Washington, D.C. these days. . . is records! Chalk up another hit for Tom, Bill, and Harry -- The Compton Brothers -- with their latest Dot endeavor. "IF ITS ALL THE SAME TO YOU" is a Bill Anderson penned tune -- "HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE BILL" is a Compton Brothers penning. The sound, blending, and background sets still another side of the many-faceted Comptons and may well set an entirely new trend! Dot's Johnny \$ Dollar has a "road album" out now full of good country sounds. This album is not available in record shops but may be purchased from Johnny's fan club president, Bernice Thompson, listed in the fan club directory. Also, be on the look-out for a first release by Miss Nicki Newland of Oxon Hill -- on a "major" label. As of this writing, the record has not been released so we are unable to give you the titles.

In radio news, Larry "Stonewall" Jackson, formerly of WXRA in Alexandria (Woodbridge), Va., and WDON, Wheaton, Md., simultaneously yet, has left the Washington area to take over an AFN station on Johnson Island in the Pacific. Larry expects to be back again in the area in about a year. Ray Bentley of Roanoke, Virginia, recently purchased WEET in

Richmond, Va. The format will remain all country music; and, in addition, WEET will put on approximately five country music shows per year with talent to be booked by Carlton Haney. Carlton's "show packaging talent" has been proven very successful at many many East Coast radio station shows.

The next WBMD Country Jubilee will be held on June 3rd at the Civic Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Ticket information may be obtained from WBMD, 21 Chase St., Baltimore. In the WBMD tradition, this show will star "The Texas Troubador", Ernest Tubb, Stonewall Jackson, Dave Dudley, Archie Campbell, Del Reeves, and The Stonemans. This should be a real "sell-out" show!

Mac Wiseman's Wise-O-Man Talent Agency operating from the WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va., Jamboree is reporting phenomenal success in booking not only Jamboree Talent, but Nashville talent as well. In addition, Wise-O-Man is the East Coast Agent for talent from the Omac stable. With 50,000 Watt, 24-hour a day WWVA Radio programming full-time country music as a beacon. Wheeling, W. Va., is fast becoming a country music capitol. The North East Country Music Incorporated Organization has Wheeling as its adopted home and holds their annual convention there; more of Wheeling's night clubs are featuring country music; and Wheeling now boasts of its own talent agency and record label under the guidance of Mac Wiseman.

Northern Virginia welcomes back Art Barrett as a disc jockey at WKCW (The Big "K") in Warrenton, Virginia. Art was in the area before, went to Pennsylvania, then South Carolina, and is warmly welcomed back. Big "K" Radio will be "moving" next pending FCC approval. The station itself will remain in Warrenton, but will move to larger quarters on a 15 acre tract which will enable them to have their tower and transmitter located together.

We will be trying very hard to have some park schedules to list for you next month.

WEST COAST NOTES *Continued from page 10*

. . . . The Most Promising Female Vocalist went to Cathy Taylor and was presented by Michael Landon of "Bonanza" Irene "Granny" Ryan gave the Most Promising Male Vocalist award to Billy Mize Pat Buttram gave the Radio Personality award to Biff Collie and Bob Kingsley Billy Mize again walked to the stage to accept the TV personality award from Bea Benadaret of "Petticoat Junction" . Edgar Buchanan, also of "Petticoat Junction" presented the Music Publishers award to Cliffie Stone of Central Songs Song of the year, presented by Donna Douglas of "The Beverly Hillbillies" went to "Apartment No. 9", Top Female Vocalist, presented by Eddie Albert of "Green Acres", was won by Bonnie Guitar . . . and the top Male award, presented by cousin Minnie Pearl went to Merle Haggard.

The top award of the evening, Country Music Man of the Year, was presented by the academy's

president, Tex Williams. The winner was, most deservedly, Mr. Dean Martin.

The entertainment end of the program was the responsibility of the Sons of the Pioneers, Tex Ritter, Bonnie Guitar, Sheb Wooley, Tex Williams, Roger Miller and a surprise visit by none other than Ray Price. Ray literally stopped the show with his new release of "Danny Boy". Tremendous.

A party afterward hosted by "Giant 1020" KGBS was a rousing success. I can't speak for anyone else, but I didn't get home until 5 O'clock in the morning. Needless to say the next day at the office wasn't too productive. Looking around at the party it looked like the entire awards show had moved upstairs. I saw Glenn Campbell, Roger Miller, Tex Ritter, Minnie Pearl, Jan Howard, Sammy Jackson, Deborah Walley, Billy Mize and many many others.

All in all the entire event was very well done and promises to be one of the big events of the Hollywood year. The whole affair was produced by Biff Collie of KFOX. Biff needs more to do like Custer needed more Indians, but as busy as he is he did a magnificent job. A great big "Congratulations" goes out to him.

Whew . . . that's brief?

More and more night clubs in southern California are featuring Country Music. I'll have a report on that next month.

Oh the merry, merry month of March. . . (or is it May) . . . oh well who cares. I think the rainy season is over anyway.

Once again I fudged on the "absolute deadline" for turning in all copy. Last month the only way I got away with it was to promise faithfully that it wouldn't happen again. So here I am two months in a row.

The Shrine auditorium in L.A. was the scene of another KGBS country music spectacular on April 7th. Headlined was Don Gibson. Don is truly one of the greats of this business and he sure proved it. Also billed was the great Stuart Hamblen, Johnnie and Joanie Mosby, the Jack Halloran quartet, and Merle Haggard and the Strangers with Miss Bonnie Owens.

Merle is currently the hottest thing in the entire western United States. With a string of hits under his belt coupled with the Top Male Vocalist award at the Academy Awards, he is certainly making his mark in Country Music.

KGBS puts on excellent shows and I for one think the credit should go where it belongs. Her name is Barbara Johns. Whenever "Giant 1020" is presenting anything this pert brunette is back stage pulling the reins. She really does a tremendous job. By the way June 10th is the George Jones show. . . don't miss it.

On May 16th KFOX is presenting a giant extravaganza at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. Top attraction is Ray Price. One of the really big ones in country music, Mr. Ray doesn't get out to the coast very often, but he has such a following out here that when he does get here the people come from miles around. On the same bill is Roy Clark, Slim Whitman, Connie Smith, Country Charlie Pride and others. Don't miss this one. . . get your tickets early.

Southern California, due mostly to its immense size, has a whale of a lot of bars and nightclubs. More and more of them are changing their entertainment format to country music to accommodate the droves of people that are switching instead of fighting. The largest and most popular is still the Palomino in North Hollywood. With Red Rhodes and the Detours playing six nights a week, a talent show on Thursday (hosted by KGBS's Bob Kingsley) and guest star night every Friday and Saturday. Another big place is Evelyns Panama Club in Long Beach. Currently featured is Al Perry and the Country Gentlemen. Al is very good and has an excellent band. I guess that might be why people flock there every night. Also in Long Beach is George's Round-up. . . a club of some fame in the area. Top name stars appear regularly and the music is supplied by Danny Michaels and the Rebel Playboys. Out in Montclair sits the Rockette which is the home of the award winning Phil Baugh Trio. Phil is a fantastic guitarist and has one of the best bands in the area. Featured singer is Capitol recording star Eddie

continued on page 44

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WEST COAST NOTES

Downs. The Aces club in the City of Industry draws some of the biggest stars in the business. If you people out there appreciate the country music in the places you patronise, be sure to let the management of the nightclub know.

Hugh Cherry of KGBS is compiling recorded interviews with stars for installation in the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. Some are from KGBS's "portrait" series, and some are from Hugh's own personal collection. He tells me that people will be able to go into the Hall of Fame and select the one they want to hear, go to a booth and listen to the star tell his own story. I can't think of anyone more qualified to do this thing. . . this summer Hugh chalks up 20 years in Country Music.

Jackie Gleasons recent TV special on country music was a rousing success. I understand the ratings are very high. Also a recent guest on Lawrence Welks TV show was Connie Smith and some time this month Mr. Sonny James will be on the Welk show. There is more and more country music on TV now and its a good sign. There are so many people claiming country music as their favorite. Bye.

NORTHWEST NOTES

ville to enjoy a twelve day vacation at Sun Valley, Idaho, before Faron headed into a busy 21 day personal appearance tour of the Northeast U.S. They were joined by Jack Roberts and his wife Cleo, down from Seattle for some skiing. After the days on the snowy slopes, Jack began a full schedule of bookings with his band, the Evergreen Drifters, which will carry them through the spring, summer, and fall. While Jack tackled the higher ski runs, Faron was pretty much contented to wait and count the bruises, and have bandages ready - - just in case . . . ! From all reports, the two couples had a wonderful stay at the famous Idaho resort. In the past, Young and Roberts have gone deep sea fishing off the Washington coast, during the summer season.

Bobby Austin of "Apartment No. 9" fame, who recently signed with Capitol Records, was in Seattle for two nights at a local club, in early March.

A few weeks ago, I was on a trip through some of the "range" counties in Eastern Oregon. It seems to me Country Music has a ready made radio listening audience in that territory with the ranchers, cowboys, etc. However, many of the stations there broadcast only a small amount of C/M, while going heavy on rock and roll sounds. This just doesn't seem right to me! (Attn: Country Music Assn. - - I think you can do some work on the matter, which will have a good end result if you do!)

Bill Brink, who used to be program director of WSIG-Radio, in Mount Jackson, Va., is now at KARI, a full-time 5,000 watt C/M outlet in Blaine, Wash., up on the Canadian Border. Blaine is where Loretta Lynn got her start some years back.

My thanks to those of you who sent along the nice

Birthday cards to me, your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated. My BIG day was March 27th! I'm always happy to hear from any and all COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE readers. Address me at 1619 So. Mullen street, Tacoma, Wash. 98405 or c/o CML in Calif. Thank you.

* * * * *

Arrival of the spring months of year here in the Pacific Northwest bring with them an increase in country music activities, personal appearances, etc. With the sunshine and blossoming flowers comes the start of the season for outdoor events -- fairs, rodeos, stage shows and the like. Those folks who are in the know, say this will be a very good year for C/M on the open-air circuit in these parts. And COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE will strive to keep it's readers well informed of all happenings, both in this column, and through general news reports.

Jack Roberts and His Evergreen Drifters, featuring Kathy Robinson, and Chubby Howard, with Tex Williams as special guest, will be one of the attractions of the Apple Blossom Festival in Wenatchee, Washington, during the first weekend in May. Also, during this month, Little Jimmy Dickens will be playing several Northwest dates before heading out on an extensive overseas jaunt. After the great performances by "the biggest little man in C/M," when he was here last December, -- there's no doubt that Jimmy will pull excellent attendance at all of his stops in this area.

I have been asked many times since the record came out, my opinion of the Ray Price recording of "Danny Boy". While I like both Ray, and the song individually, I think Ray's version on the Columbia label is too 'pop' for country stations, and too 'country' for pop stations. Ray should always use the backing of the Cherokee Cowboys -- on records as well as on personal appearances. Where are they on "Danny Boy?" I would be very much interested in knowing if you COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE readers agree with me on this or not. If I receive enough mail on the matter, I will send the results on to Ray. There are some C/M disk jockeys around the Northwest who will not spin this particular Ray Price release, when usually they are anxious to air his records.

Gary Van and his Justice Recording Band, out of Dallas, Texas, were in Idaho and Washington on tour not long ago. They made themselves many new fans and friends who are looking forward to an early return visit by the crew. Gary and the band have long been popular in the Southwest and Midwest areas of the country, and have also played such top spots as the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, Caravan East in Albuquerque, N.M.; and overseas. Gary Van could have a big record at any time!

Looking into my mail-box, -- thanks to everyone for the wonderful cards and letters. I ever-so-much appreciate you taking time to write. To just mention a sampling. . . a communication from Aubrey Mayhew,

head of Little Darlin' Records and also the writer and publisher of Ray Price's smash "Touch My Heart" . . . a nice note from Mary Rasche in Warren, Oregon, requesting information on Doyle Holly . . . a letter from Mrs. Malcolm Davis of Cohoes, N.Y., with record samples of her favorite group, Bob Hill and His Spring Valley Boys on Pyramid Records, coupling "All That Glitters Isn't Gold," with a fine yodel tune, featuring Bob on the vocal -- "Echoing Hills." You don't hear many yodeling songs anymore, and this one is a real goodie! Bob Hill and the Spring Valley Boys work the area in and around Schenectady, N.Y. Their record jacket is very attractive bearing a picture of the band. . . Thanks to

J. B. Artist and Record Promotions in Warrington, Pa., for the card boosting Jack Turner and Tom Donahue, who are The Country Music Gents, and their new Wizard record of "Cinderella". . . also much appreciation to Jim Adams of the Gary Van office in Dallas, and to so many, many others who I would mention here if Space wasn't running out.

Please take note if you are planning to write me, -- I have a new address. Please direct your mail to 8201 So. Lawrence St., No. 8, Tacoma, Wash. 98409, or of course, still in c/o CML in California. Until next month, as an old disk jockey buddy of mine, Bill Price used to always say -- "If it's COUNTRY MUSIC It's BOUND to be GOOD!!!"

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CHARLESTON, W. VA.	5
PHILADELPHIA, PA.	6
CLEVELAND, OHIO	7
SANGER, TEXAS	11
GREENVILLE, TEXAS	12
FORT WORTH, TEXAS	13
HUGO, OKLAHOMA	15
WESLACO, TEXAS	18
RIVIERA, TEXAS	19
WHEELING, W. VA.	27
ANGOLA, INDIANA	28

CLYDE BEAVERS

MONTGOMERY, ALA.	12
MONTGOMERY, ALA.	13
CHARLESTON, S.C.	26
CHARLESTON, S.C.	27

DON BOWMAN

JACKSON, MISS.	6
SIoux CITY, IOWA	13
ANGOLA, INDIANA	28

JIM E. BROWN

SPRINGFIELD, MO.	6
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WILMA BURGESS

JACKSON, MISS	6
MACON, GEORGIA	20

CARL & PEARL BUTLER

ROANOKE, VA.	5
PHILADELPHIA, PA.	6
CLEVELAND, OHIO	7
YOUNG HARRIS, GA.	12
ASHEVILLE, N.C.	13
WEST GROVE, PA.	14
ALEXANDRIA, VA.	19
JOHNSTOWN, PA.	20
NEW TRIPOLI, PA.	21
MOBILE, ALA.	26

ARCHIE CAMPBELL

TORONTO, ONT.	1-6
BIG SPRINGS, TEX.	11
SAN ANGELO, TEX.	12
DALLAS, TEX.	13

JOHNNY CASH

CHICAGO, ILL.	7
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BEN SMATHERS & THE STONEY

MT. CLOGGERS	
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.	25

SKEETER DAVIS

LITTLE VALLEY, N.Y.	12
LAPEER, MICHIGAN	13
JACKSON, MICHIGAN	14

DUKE OF PADUCAH

E. PEORIA, ILL.	7
AKRON, OHIO	27
PONTIAC, MICH.	28

JOHNNY DARRELL

LOUISVILLE, KY.	3
E. PEORIA, ILL.	7
NASHVILLE, TENN.	8-13

LEFTY FRIZZELL

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	12
TAMPA, FLA.	19
TAMPA, FLA.	20

DON GIBSON

PHILADELPHIA, PA.	6
CLEVELAND, OHIO	7

THE GLASER BROS.

ATLANTA, GA.	4
COLUMBUS, OHIO	13
JACKSON, MICHIGAN	14
E. PATTERSON, N.J.	27
W. MIFFLIN, PA.	28

HARDEN TRIO

ASHEVILLE, N.C.	13
KINGSPORT, TENN.	19
PRICHARD, ALA.	27

HOMESTEADERS

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.	25
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DAVID HOUSTON

HOUSTON, TEXAS	5
SHREVEPORT, LA.	6
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	7
JASPER, TEXAS	10-13
ANGOLA, INDIANA	14
EVERETT, MASS.	19
W. MIFFLIN, PA.	21
LENOIR, N.C.	27

JAN HOWARD

CHARLESTON, W. VA.	5
PHILADELPHIA, PA.	6
CLEVELAND, OHIO	7
WACO, TEXAS	11
LONGVIEW, TEXAS	12
FORT WORTH, TEXAS	13

FERLIN HUSKY

ATLANTA, GEORGIA	1-6
ONSTEAD, MICHIGAN	28
W. MIFFLIN, PA.	30

WADE JACKSON

KANSAS CITY, MO.	24-27
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WAYLON JENNINGS

LOUISVILLE, KY.	3
DECATER, ALA.	4
JACKSON, MISS.	6
PHOENIX, ARIZ.	8-13
ALEXANDRIA, VA.	19
JOHNSTOWN, PA.	20
NEW TRIPOLI, PA.	21
MOBILE, ALA.	26

GEORGE JONES

CLAYTON, DELAWARE	5
LENOIR, N.C.	6
W. MIFFLIN, PA.	7
E. PATTERSON, N.J.	12
COLUMBUS, OHIO	13
DICKERSON, IND.	14
ONSTEAD, MICHIGAN	21
TEXARKANA, TEXAS	26
FT. WORTH, TEXAS	27
DALLAS, TEXAS	28

GRANDPA JONES

W. MIFFLIN, PA.	14
TEXARKANA, TEX.	26
FT. WORTH, TEXAS	27
DALLAS, TEXAS	28

MELBA MONTGOMERY

COLUMBUS, OHIO	13
DICKERSON, INDIANA	14
TEXARKANA, TEXAS	26
FT. WORTH, TEXAS	27
DALLAS, TEXAS	28

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KINGSPORT, TENN.	19
PRICHARD, ALA.	27

MINNIE PEARL

LITTLE VALLEY, N.Y.	12
YORK, PA.	20
AKRON, OHIO	27
PONTIAC, MICH.	28

WEBB PIERCE

PHILADELPHIA, PA.	6
CLEVELAND, OHIO	7
BIG SPRINGS, TEX.	11
SAN ANGELO, TEX.	12
FT. WORTH, TEX.	13

DEL REEVES

ATLANTA, GEORGIA	4
GOLDSBORO, N.C.	12
ASHVILLE, N.C.	13
MACON, GEORGIA	20

KENNY ROBERTS

BROCKVILLE, CAN.	1-2
MASSENA, NEW YORK	3-4
BOUND BROOK, N.J.	5
E. PATTERSON, N.J.	6
BROOKLYN, N.Y.	13
NEWARK, N.J.	14
TRENTON, N.J.	20
LAKE COMPOUNCE, CONNECTICUT	21

CARL SMITH

E. PEORIA, ILL.	7
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HANK SNOW

MECHANICSBURG, PA.	21
PEMBORKE, ONT.	23
SUDBURY, ONT.	24
WINDSOR, ONT.	25
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.	26
BRENTFORD, ONT.	27
OSHAWA, ONT.	28
SAULT ST. MARIE, CA.	30
NORTH BAY, ONT.	31

RED SOVINE

LOUISVILLE, KY.	3
WINCHESTER, VA.	6
BRUNSWICK, GA.	12
HATTISBURG, MISS.	16
ORANGE, TEX.	18-20
GIBBIN, MINN.	28
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	29

MERLE TRAVIS

EUROPE	5-21
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JUSTIN TUBB

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	8
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LEROY VAN DYKE

FT. COLLINS, COLO.	5-6
ANGOLA, INDIANA	14
MOBILE, ALABAMA	26
SAUCIER, MISS.	27

PORTER WAGONER & NORMA JEAN

KINGSPORT, TENN.	4
MORRISTOWN, TENN.	5
ADAMS, WISC.	16
GREEN BAY, WISC.	17
KENOSHA, WISC.	18
RACINE, WISC.	19
AURORA, ILL.	20
DAYTON, OHIO	21
MURFREESBORO, TENN.	25

BLAIRSVILLE, GA.

BLAIRSVILLE, GA.	26
CISCO, ILL.	28
LEMAY, MISS.	30

BILLY WALKER

PORT HURON, MICH.	2
WINCHESTER, VA.	6
JACKSON, MICH.	14
MOBILE, ALA.	26

CHARLIE WALKER

RIVIERA, TEXAS	6
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DOTTIE WEST

LOUISVILLE, KY.	3
ATLANTA, GA.	8-13
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