

OPRY

COUNTRY & WESTERN

PICTURE BOOK

of

STARS



- ★ ALL THE FAMOUS NAMES IN COUNTRY & WESTERN MUSIC.
- ★ GRAND OLE OPRY STARS
- ★ POPULAR FOLK SINGERS
- ★ COUNTRY & WESTERN D.J.'s

BIOGRAPHIES & STORIES
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COUNTRY
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LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY

KITTY WELLS

Exclusive DECCA recording artist

Though she may have come into this world with the same opportunities that every other child is afforded, KITTY WELLS now holds the distinction of being one of the few women folk singers to ever rise to fame and fortune. KITTY was born in the capital of folk music, Nashville, Tennessee, August 30, 1919. Young KITTY WELLS learned her art as a child from her guitar playing railroader father, big Charlie Carey Deason. As big Charlie used to pick and sing "Casy Jones" in the evenings, little KITTY began to learn the truly American art of the folk ballad. Today as Mrs. Johnnie Wright, who incidentally is the Johnnie of "Johnnie and Jack" recording fame. KITTY is the proud mother of two lovely girls and one boy. Their ages run from 7 to 12 years old. Though KITTY WELLS spends a great deal of her time doing personal appearances and radio shows, she is a mother first, singer second. KITTY got her start in radio back in 1937 on WSIX in Nashville, Tennessee. Since then she has appeared on WNOX, Knoxville, Tennessee, KWKH, Shreveport, Louisiana, WPTF, Raleigh, North Carolina and many others. Also, KITTY was featured soloist for years on the Louisiana Hayride.

Today as you look at KITTY WELLS you see a lovely picture of fine American womanhood. KITTY stands a tall 5 feet 7 inches and weighs 137 pounds. Black hair and brown eyes, the picture of an Irish colleen.

KITTY WELLS' instant smash of IT WASN'T GOD WHO MADE HONKY TONK ANGELS has caused the entire music industry to perk up and take notice. KITTY WELLS' remarkably sincere and sad melodic voice is heard exclusively on the DECCA label.



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



THE WILBURN BROTHERS

The Wilburn Brothers come by their talent through a combination of heredity, environment and hard work. Born into a musical family, the boys can remember back to their very earliest years, when their daily schedule included hours of practice on the instruments that their father had managed to purchase for them despite extreme financial hardships.

Doyle and Teddy were both born on a farm in Hardy, Missouri within one year of each other. They have remained that close ever since. They went to school together, they work together, and often go on double dates. The Wilburns were a family act at first with Doyle and Teddy and their sister Jerry doing Country & Western shows throughout the midwest. Finally Jerry left the act to be married, and soon afterward the original Wilburn Family Group was broken up when Doyle and Teddy went into the Army. After their stint in the army, Doyle and Teddy, still remembering the warm reception they had received two years before on the "Grand Ole Opry" in Nashville, decided to go right back to singing. The new Wilburn Brothers first joined the Webb Pierce Show, then found themselves back on the "Grand Ole Opry". Despite extremely heavy radio commitments they found time for country and western-shows throughout the country, as well as for an extended tour in behalf of the armed forces to entertain the troops abroad. Their popularity has grown and grown, until they can now be called "Stars" in the true sense of the word.

It is interesting to note that as close as the two boys are in age and every other respect, they still have preserved their individuality to a great extent. Teddy loves sports and is especially active in both golf and bowling, whereas Doyle prefers to stay home of an afternoon and work on his already extensive collection of old coins. Neither Doyle nor Teddy is married, but they both express the wish that when the time comes they would like to be "star" husbands and fathers, as well as artists.

MARTY ROBBINS

Columbia's Marty Robbins has been dubbed a voice of many styles. One of few singers successful in both the Popular and Country and Western idioms, Marty's recordings have won him high honors and top sales.

Trail Magazine's readers' poll voted him "Best Male Singer." *Billboard* awarded him four "triple crowns" in as many weeks. His recording of his own song, "A White Sport Coat" sold well over a million copies. His latest album is listed among the best sellers by *Cash Box* and *Variety*.

Versatile Marty has written well over a hundred songs. He has also appeared in a number of Hollywood movies, including "The Gun and the Gavel", "The Badge of Marshal Brennan", in which he played a Mexican cowboy, "The Western Musketeers", and "Buffalo Guns."

Born in Arizona, near the small town of Glendale, Marty moved with his family to Phoenix when he was 12 years old. At 19, he enlisted in the Navy and spent three years on a Pacific Island, where he taught himself to strum the guitar and began to compose songs. After Navy service, Marty tried many jobs: truck driver, auto mechanic, construction worker, well driller, electrician's helper. Sometimes he worked only one day a week, but in his spare time he was writing songs.

Through a friend whose band was booked at a Phoenix nightclub, Marty made his singing debut.

In time, Marty had his own radio show and a television program called "Western Caravan." His versatile style was developed on these programs on which he ranged from gospel songs and blues to Western ballads. Besides two radio programs daily and a weekly television show, Marty made frequent guest appearances on "Grand Ole Opry", becoming a regular member in 1953. He then began to make recordings, chiefly of his own works.



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



CHET ATKINS, of R.C.A. Victor Records



SKEETER DAVIS, of R.C.A. Victor Records

LEROY VAN DYKE

Leroy Van Dyke, the "Auctioneer" of radio, television and recording fame, and known from coast to coast by his nationwide fans, has joined the Mercury Record label to achieve new heights in recording stardom.

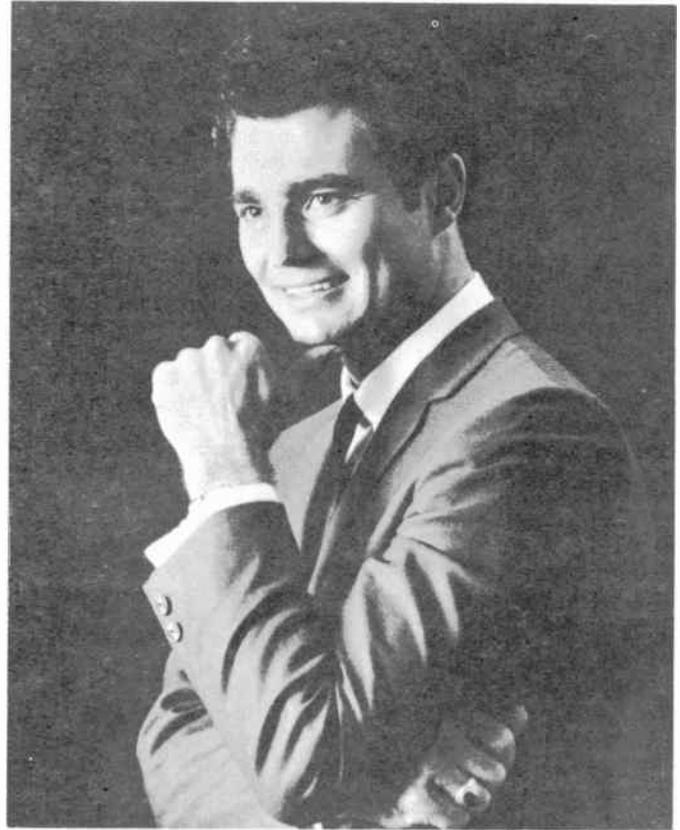
This farm-raised lad, with personality-plus and unusual, unforgettable voice, was born in Spring Fork, Missouri, a direct descendant of Henry Van Dyke. His father, a farmer who also operates a trucking line, kept young Leroy busy during his childhood scooping endless bushels of corn, baling thousands of bales of hay, or playing mid-wife to a flock of sheep.

After graduation from high school, Leroy attended the University of Missouri, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree, while majoring in Animal Husbandry. After college came the U. S. Army, and it was during his two year stint in the Army that Leroy began to practice on a Sears Roebuck guitar and learned to accompany himself during the many lonely hours in Korea.

In 1951, deciding to be an auctioneer like his cousin, Ray Sims, Leroy entered Reppert's School of Auctioneering and went into the livestock auction and promotion business for a time. However, his outstanding talent was not destined to Animal Husbandry or livestock auction, as the dark-haired, green eyed young singer completely captivated P.T.A. audiences, meetings, banquets and amateur talent contests, wherever he was heard.

Joining the ABC-TV Jubilee, U.S.A., with Red Foley, Leroy found more fame via the medium of television and his sensational singing was heard by millions.

Now, "singing for a living" Leroy, the talented young singer from the farm has reached undreamed of heights in show business, adding a bright spot to the entertainment field from coast to coast.



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



MAX WISEMAN of Capitol Records



THE BROWNS
Jim Edwards, Maxine and Bonnie Brown

ROY DRUSKY

Decca Recording Artist

ROY DRUSKY made his first appearance in the world on June 22, 1930, in Atlanta, Georgia. Even as early as his kindergarten years, Roy started his musical career on drums, later in Grade School, piano, clarinet and Glee Club work, but his first love, at the time, was baseball. Upon graduation from high school in 1948, Roy was voted on the Atlanta Allstar team for the year and was offered a contract with the Cleveland Indians. Instead of taking this offer, Roy joined Uncle Sam's Navy and it was in the Navy that Roy became interested in the guitar.

After his Navy tour, he attended the University of Georgia (Atlanta Division) but still had music in his mind. Therefore, he decided to form a band. The band was called the Southern Ranch Boys and the career of his band was successful. They were heard over radio station WEAS in Decatur, Georgia, and these programs opened WLWA-TV in Atlanta. Also, at this time, Roy was working five nights per week in a local club.

Roy started writing songs and submitted one called "Alone With You" to Faron Young, which Faron recorded and the rest is history. The song was a big hit for Faron and opened many doors for Roy. Other songs Roy has written are "Country Girl" recorded by Faron Young; "I'm Letting You Go" recorded by Webb Pierce; "I'll Be Alright (In The Morning)" recorded by Faron Young; "Leave Me Alone" recorded by Red Sovine; "One Empty Chair" recorded by George Morgan; "Before I Lose My Mind", "Before This Day Ends", "Is She All You Thought She Would Be", "Another" — his No. 1 song, plus a bigger record called "Any-more" also recorded by Teresa Brewer and then the biggest of all, "Three Hearts In A Tangle" and "I'd Rather Loan You Out." These have established Roy as one of the top names in the entertainment world.

Roy is a star of the famed WSM Grand Ole Opry and is a very happy boy.



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



JIMMY NEWMAN, Decca Recording Artist



WILMA LEE & STONEY COOPER of Hickory Records



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of
R.C.A.
Victor
Records



DEL WOOD, Opry Favorite of Mercury Records

OPRY SPOTLIGHT

BILL ANDERSON

Star of Decca Records

With a soft, easy-sounding style all his own, Bill Anderson has already sung his way into the hearts of millions of people around the world. And he only started his professional career as recently as 1958, when he recorded the original version of the unforgettable, "City Lights." He has since followed suit with hit performances on such great songs as "That's What It's Like To Be Lonesome", "Ninety-Nine Years", "Dead or Alive", "The Tip of My Fingers", "Walk Out Backwards" and the fabulous "Po' Folks", "Mama Sang A Song" and "Still." His vocal talents are showcased on Decca records, and he appears each week as a regular member of the world-famous Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bill is known as "The Boy with the Golden Pen" and the list of artists who have recorded songs written by Bill Anderson reads like a Who's Who of Show Business: Debbie Reynolds, Jim Reeves, Faron Young, Ivory Joe Hunter, Ray Price, Don Gibson, Rusty Draper, George Hamilton IV, Tommy Edwards, The Browns, and many, many more. In addition, Bill Anderson has composed each of his own hits as well.

Bill has accomplished a lot for a boy born less than 25 years ago — November 1, 1937, to be exact — in Columbia, South Carolina. Bill grew up in Decatur, Georgia, near Atlanta, and got his first musical experience with a local band he organized there while still in high school. Following graduation, he worked for three years as a disc-jockey, and during this time began writing the songs for which he has now become so famous.

Deep sincerity, personal warmth, and the glowing showmanship characterize Bill Anderson, and seem to radiate from deep inside. His name is still relatively new on the musical horizon, but there can be no doubt but what it's destined to remain there — to grow and glow — for a long, long time.



FERLIN HUSKY

For some reason, the Ferlin Husky story was never made into a motion picture. But it has been suggested. If the idea ever materializes, the lucky screen-writer will have a field day.

Ferlin Husky has been an entertainer since birth. Thirty odd years later, he's still entertaining — both on and off stage. Hubert Long, his manager, was once quoted, "Ferlin gives away a fortune of entertainment off stage."

Ferlin is the leader type. He organizes. He works. Better yet, he has a never ending job for himself to do things different and better.

Born in Flat River, Missouri, Ferlin received his musical inspiration from his mother who used her front parlor as a rehearsal hall for the local boys and girls and guitars. He moved to the west coast after a merchant marine hitch, recorded as Terry Preston, to not offend the family name, later as Ferlin Husky (his real name), has sold millions of records, "Gone" and "Wings of A Dove" the most famous.

Simon Crum, his comic sidekick, created a stir with "Country Music Is Here To Stay." His office walls are lined with Number One country and western and folk singer awards from leading polls for the past ten years. His memorable appearances on Kraft TV Theatre was a highlight in his already crowded career. Later, movies, TV appearances and more hit records kept Ferlin's career blossoming.

The handsome Husky, lives in a modest ranch style home, complete with swimming pool, on the banks of the beautiful Cumberland river, just outside Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of WSM's Grand Ole Opry, Capitol recording artist and STAR OF ANY STAGE HE STEPS ON...



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



LOUVIN BROTHERS of Capitol Records



JEAN SHEPPARD of Capitol Records

RED FOLEY

Exclusive Decca Recording Artist

This is the story of Red Foley, a bashful country boy, who came to the city and made good in a big way.

Long before Red became known as the soft-voiced, mild-mannered folk song star, he made his musical beginning humming his favorite tunes in the blackberry patch region around the little community of Blue Lick, Kentucky. When he was still knee-high to a chigger, Red obtained his first guitar. It was an antiquated instrument which a customer had turned in as part payment on an account at the general store run by Red's father. But by his seventh birthday, little Red, whose real name is Clyde Julian Foley, could pick out folk tunes.

In his tiny one-room school house in Blue Lick, Red got another and this time undesired, boost in his musical career when the teacher, a man who took pride in his voice, began to arrange songs. Red took part — but not because he wanted to. The only thing that conquered his stage fright, he says, was the threat of the hickory cane that stood in the corner.

After high school, Red studied one semester at Georgetown College. It was there a talent scout from Station WLS in Chicago found him and hired him on the spot for the Chicago Barn Dance; then it was in its infancy.

He says he was scared to death his first few weeks in Chicago. He took the \$75.00 his father gave him and put it in the bottom of his shoe. "I got blisters," Red says. "But I saved my money from the gangsters." Then with a sly smile, he admits his feet still hurt when he thinks about that experience.

Despite the numerous offers he has had to go into the popular field, Red says he will never leave the field of folk music. "I was born and raised on it," he says. "It's music that comes straight from the heart, the kind that expresses our real emotions."

And that's Red Foley, the country boy who made good.



OPRY SPOTLIGHT



GEORGE HAMILTON IV of R.C.A. Victor Records



BILL CARLISLE of Columbia Records



ERNEST TUBB of Decca Records



HANK LOCKLIN of R.C.A. Victor Records



JIM REEVES of R.C.A. Victor Records

OPRY SPOTLIGHT



LESTER FLATT & EARL SCRUGGS at Glen Echo Park



BILL MONROE of Decca Records



CARL SMITH

OPRY SPOTLIGHT



STONEWALL JACKSON of Columbia Records



JAMES O'GWYNN of Mercury Records



WEBB PIERCE

"The Wondering Boy"

In April of 1955, for the first time in the history of Country and Western charting, ONE name and ONE song occupied the number one position on each and every chart printed. Webb Pierce was the name and "In The Jailhouse Now" his Decca recording was the song. From the standpoint of the Recording Industry, this was an unique occurrence. For Webb Pierce, however, the coveted top spot on these popularity charts had long before become something akin to home. For instance, Webb's very first platter for the Decca firm in 1951 entitled "Wondering" was an immediate hit and just as immediately, Webb stopped "Wondering" and resigned his job as floor manager at Sears, Roebuck Company to pursue a guitar shaped career. Since then, he has had an uninterrupted string of hits. Of all the records he has made for Decca, 30 were top ten in the nation, 13 achieved the No. 1 position . . . an almost unbelievable hit percentage.

Webb's destiny was fashioned on his father's farm in West Monroe, Louisiana, where he was born and worked in the fields. He first picked the guitar at the age of 12/ at 16, he became proficient enough to land his first job as a professional entertainer . . . a fifteen minute radio show called . . . "Songs by Webb Pierce." After a three year stint in the Army, Webb settled in Shreveport, Louisiana and renewed his singing career and his success in the entertainment field has been phenomenal. Honor after honor has been heaped upon him.

In 1956, Webb was voted into the Country and Western Hall of Fame and was presented a plaque. Only six others have been selected for this "All Time Greats" award to date.

Webb just doesn't seem to miss on his recordings. Every record he cuts will show up in the Country charts or Pop and Country.

Webb currently makes his home in Nashville, Tennessee and flies to all of his personal appearances.

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



LAWTON WILLIAMS of R.C.A Victor & Mercury Records



ELTON BRITT of A.B.C. Paramount Records



HANK SNOW of R.C.A. Victor Records



FLOYD CRAMER of R.C.A. Victor Records



SONNY & BOB, The Osborne Brothers of MGM Records

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



THE BARRIER BROTHERS, Famous Blue Grass Band of Phillips Records



THE EVERLY BROTHERS of Warner Bros. Records

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



SHEP WOOLEY alias "Ben Colder" of MGM Records



JOHNNY LEE WILLS of Sims Records

EDDY ARNOLD

The path that Eddy Arnold followed during his sensational rise from the soil to stardom is typically and thoroughly American. Its source lies at the very heartland of this country's folk music, the Tennessee hills, and from there spreads to the farthest coasts and plains, cities and farms. As an exclusive RCA Victor recording artist, Eddy's records have helped him to blaze this sky-rocketing path; his recordings have a sales mark of almost twenty-two million copies.

Richard Edward Arnold was born on a farm near Henderson, a small town in western Tennessee, the youngest of four children. His father, a moderately successful dirt farmer, was a break-down fiddle player who also sang bass in church, and his mother knew enough music to teach him chords on the guitar. By the time he was nine, Eddy was huffing square dance music on a harmonica and pounding a guitar as he sang the songs he had heard Jimmie Rodgers performing on records. When Eddy was eleven, his father died and the farm had to be sold at auction; Eddy and his two older brothers wound up as sharecroppers on the land their father once owned.

The youngster helped to support the household by plowing and trading at the markets until he was eighteen. (When he first hit the bigtime, Eddy was advertised as "The Tennessee Plowboy." It was a completely legitimate title.) "I kept dreaming about getting away from the plow," Eddy recalls today. "I cut timber for a while— and that's a lot harder than farm work."

With instruction from his mother and four seventy-five cent lessons from a traveling musician, Eddy learned the guitar, and when he was eighteen joined a small band performing in Jackson, Tennessee. From there he went to St. Louis where he joined forces with a young fiddle player named Howard McNatt. They opened at station KWK — and Eddy Arnold's phenomenal career had begun in earnest.

Eddy's radio and television appearances have been numerous; they range from the "Grand Ole Opry" to the "Eddy Arnold

Show," "Eddy Arnold Sings," and "Eddy Arnold Time." Eddy hosted the original and successful NBC-TV network show "Today— On the Farm," which was telecast each Saturday morning over a network of one hundred and ninety stations for the farmers of America, and his recent television appearances include the "New City Service Spectacular." Two of Eddy's biggest all-time hits are his recordings of "Bouquet of Roses" and "Anytime."

Along with this tremendous popularity, Eddy Arnold has retained an earthy, altogether homespun personality. He holds a sincere interest in all family matters, which revolve around his lovely wife, Sally and their two children Dickie and Jo Ann.

The years of Eddy's romance with Sally date back to the time just after his St. Louis debut. Eddy was touring with Pee Wee King's band, and happened into a five-and-dime store in Louisville, where Sally was working. A glance was sufficient for the traditional 'love at first sight' and after numerous visits — and considerable notion buying — Eddy asked her out. "She was making more money than I was," he says today, "but I was too proud to let her know it." They were married when Eddy's tour returned to Nashville.

Eddy has a farmer's urge to acquire land. His wife, now an interested collector of antiques and curios, took him with her to the auctioning of an old farm; she found nothing to add to her collection, but the farm itself was a terrific bargain. So now Arnold owns it and has stocked it with Hereford cattle. One of the two Arnold farms is a bountiful one hundred and seven acre section of land just outside of Brentwood, Tennessee, where Eddy raises horses as well as beef cattle.

Most of Eddy's non-musical activities center around his farms — with just enough time left over for fishing trips out on Kentucky Lake and hunting trips into the midlands of Tennessee. Such are the pursuits that Eddy followed long before music had gained a foothold in his life — the pursuits from which arose the vital blend of song and sod that makes Eddy Arnold such a uniquely powerful figure among American entertainers.

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



FERLIN HUSKEY, KITTY & SMILEY WILSON of the Ferlin Huskey Show



EDDY ARNOLD of R.C.A. Victor Records

REX ALLEN

Rex Allen, the Arizona Cowboy, whose singing talent, warmth and friendliness have endeared him to fans throughout the country, started his recording career with Mercury Records in 1946. Specializing in cowboy material with a novel twist, he later moved toward blues and ballads, as well, recording one successful disc after another. In addition to his fast-selling Mercury Records, Rex has made over twenty-six motion pictures for Republic, has had his own CBS radio show and appeared as guest-star on many television shows.

Rex has been a cowpoke from the time he was old enough to sit on a horse. He was born in Willcox, Arizona, and learned to ride almost before he learned to walk. His early life was that of a typical ranch boy; he milked cows, branded calves and repaired fences. When he was eleven, his father bought him a Sears Roebuck guitar and book of instructions, and before long Rex was playing at local club meetings and benefits.

At the age of thirteen, Rex made his radio debut at the State Cattlemen's Convention, and in 1936 his high school music teacher entered him in a state-wide contest in which he won first prize. Turning down a scholarship to the University of Arizona, Rex worked the rodeo circuit as a bronc buster for two years, and then decided to try to find work in radio. He was hired by a Trenton, New Jersey station, but had to hold down a second job at a rubber mill to meet expenses. In March of 1945, executives of Chicago's WLS summoned the young singer to their studios for an audition. Rex was hired, and soon became one of the biggest stars of the famous "National Barn Dance" program.

Talented in more than one direction, Rex composes most of his songs and has had some three hundred of them published.

Rex is married to a girl from Newhaska, Nebraska, whom he met when she appeared with him on a radio show in Chicago. Her name is Bonnie, and they have two sons, Rex, Junior, born in 1947, and Curtis Lee, born in January, 1950. The Allens make their home in Encino, California.



Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



CLAUDE GRAY

Claude Gray, the tall, handsome Texan who sang his way to nationwide fame with his 'songs from the heart,' began life as a country boy who sang the songs of the people he had known and lived with all his life. From a little farm in Texas to a famous Mercury singing star in a few short years, is the unusual story of the country lad who completely captivates his audience when he strums his guitar and sings in his warm, sincere style. From the master of country music to skyrocketing fame on the pop charts of the city, is also the unusual story of the country boy who sang his way to fame in both musical fields.

Upon graduation from high school, Claude was a towering six-foot, four-inch, blue-eyed Gary Cooper look-a-like, and decided to get "a job singing for a record company." But Uncle Sam decided to give him a 'job' instead and Claude entered the U. S. Navy for a two-year stint. Just a few months before his discharge from the service, Claude's father died and Claude decided to give up his hopes of pursuing a musical career, for his widowed mother and sisters suddenly became his responsibility. Immediately after his discharge, he went to work as a field representative for a trailer hauling company, instead of 'singing for a living.' But fate stepped in, in the form of a recording company executive who heard the gentle-voiced singer and in 1959, signed the young budding talent to a recording contract. After recording two songs on the local label, his tremendous appeal was quickly discovered by a Mercury A & R Director who immediately signed him to an exclusive recording contract. His first Mercury hit platter "I'll Just Have A Cup of Coffee" skyrocketed Claude to the top of the Country and pop charts almost overnight and established the talented singer as a recording star. His waxing of a succession of chart-riding hit platters zoomed the country-raised lad to nationwide fame.

For Claude who keeps his feet firmly on the ground while his wonderful, appealing voice soars into the clouds, the future can only be filled with years of "pickin' and singin'" for his thousands of faithful fans.

JUDY THOMAS



She's young and blue-eyed — she sings like an angel — plays guitar like a saint — and looks like a bit of heaven! Simple is the description of 21-year old Judy Thomas but simply sensational is the wonderful contralto voice of the newest dynamo of song, and the newest addition to the Philips talent roster. When Philips Records released the first disk of the lovely songstress, "Welcome Home", America rushed to record shops across the nation to 'welcome home' a new star of 1962 — a new recording artist that was a tiny bundle of singing talent, power-packed with personality and young good looks, all tied up in one slender package called, Judy Thomas.

After graduation from high school, Judy sang at odd jobs to pay her tuition through college, where she majored in dramatics. "I guess I still hope to do acting in some medium, someday", states Judy, "but singing is my first love and a career in singing has always been my goal."

America listened to Judy and her first platter spun a song of success, titled "Devil Woman". Applauded by fans and critics across the country, Judy took another swift and sure step on her journey to fame.

The 5 ft. 3 in. ash-blond, Irish lovely tips the scales at 120 lbs. and evenings when she is not dating 'someone who loves music' Judy is usually found comfortably curled up with her favorite novel or book of poetry. An ardent sports enthusiast, Judy spends her leisure mornings horseback riding or bowling. Her idea of a good time is to gather a group of friends together for a fun-fest of group singing. Judy admits to one fault — a failure to think before she talks, but her youthful enthusiasm in too-quickly expressing herself has its compensations, for it happily makes people realize her sincerity.

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



CLYDE BEAVERS of Tempwood & Decca Records



WARNER MACK of Decca Records



RUSTY DRAPER

Rusty was born Farrell H. Draper, in Kirksville, Missouri, where his first serious interest in showbusiness came to light when at the age of ten he was presented with a guitar by his father, Samuel C. Draper, a musically minded proprietor of a general store.

At 18, he moved to San Bernadino with his family, having then attended 12 high schools throughout the midwest before receiving his diploma. His kind of job proved as scarce as snow in Sumatra in the little California city, so he shelved his junior-sized career and became a Western Union messenger boy.

"The one highlight," he recalled, "was delivering wires to Dorothy Lamour's summer home, where the butler would always tip me at least fifty cents."

Restless to go back into showbusiness, which he now determined must be his life's work, he hocked his electric guitar to garner enough money to get to San Francisco and pay his room and board there for several weeks. The job situation wasn't much better in the Bay City, but he managed to pick up pocket money by playing and singing in bars.

At the Rumpus Room in California, Rusty gradually began to expand into the bigtime. He was a guest star on the Eddie Cantor, Ed Sullivan and Patti Page shows, and his platters for Mercury Records were good sellers.

He had three TV shows simultaneously, and got around to his video assignments with the help of a friendly cop and split second timing. He is proud of the fact that he had the first sponsored TV show in San Francisco.

With Rusty drawing packed houses in such famous spots as New York's La Vie En Rose, New Orleans' Blue Room, the Fountainbleu in Miami Beach, dates in Hollywood, Las Vegas, Reno and other popular clubs.

With the million sale total both of "Gambler's Guitar" and "Shifting, Whispering Sands", CBS offered Rusty his own radio show, and the rest is history.

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists

DARRELL McCALL

Folks around Hillsboro, Ohio, always said Darrell's place would be with his Dad in his garage. Young McCall liked working with his hands but not messing with car engines. He was an elusive half-back on the high school football team, but he really played for recreation. About the only thing he really liked in school was music. And that showed too. Now, some three years after he bid his father's grease rack farewell, Darrell is one of Nashville's hottest music recording and stage properties. He plays lead guitar, bass fiddle and drums. But best of all he sings, and he sings with SOUL.

After leaving Ohio where he broke into music on a local radio station with his own teenage band and local deejay, McCall snook into corners of the Nashville music industry with his instrumental work and as the tenor with the Little Dippers vocal group. Soon later, his tenor voice was used to back up more established stars during record sessions. For a while, you couldn't hear a country type tenor record that didn't have the McCall touch. Then Faron Young took Darrell on to front his Country Deputies band. Finally, Shelby Singleton of Philips Records wondered what the boy would sound like by himself. The rest is history.

His first efforts for Philips "DEAR ONE" was a winner. It opened not only doors in country circles, but the popular charts as well. McCall plays the Grand Ole Opry when extra talent is needed, a couple Dick Clark national network shows and a long chain of personal appearances waiting to be played lets Darrell have little time off. His hobbies are guns, hunting and swimming. Darrell works a swap with fans for snapshots. When he sends one of his snaps out to eager fans, he asks for one from them. At last count, Darrell had some 5,000 fans snapshots in his photo album.





MARGIE BOWES

Five feet-five and eyes of blue—that is the “Sweetheart Of Songs”—Margie Bowes. The slim, chestnut-haired pretty Mercury Record singing sensation who brought the house down with her warbling at the Showboat Lounge in Las Vegas, the Dick Clark Show, and her various appearances in clubs, theatres and U.S. Army outposts across the nation, has been tagged the “Sweetheart Of Songs” by disk jockeys since waxing her first disk on the Hickory label. Putting her feelings into every song, the versatile young songstress sings everyone’s favorite song, since she is as much at home singing folk songs, country and western tunes, as when she belts out as a pop singer.

Born in Roxboro, North Carolina, twenty years ago, Margie came from a musically inclined family.

Her first professional break came when Margie entered a nationwide Pet Milk Grand Ole Opry talent contest in 1958 and won first prize. Her appearance in the contest resulted in a contract to record for Hickory Records and an offer for a guest appearance on the Grand Ole Opry, famous television show. Her sensational singing on the Grand Ole Opry show brought a contract to appear as a regular on the show in May of 1959. Her repeated performances won her rave notices, thousands of fans, and an exclusive Mercury Record contract.

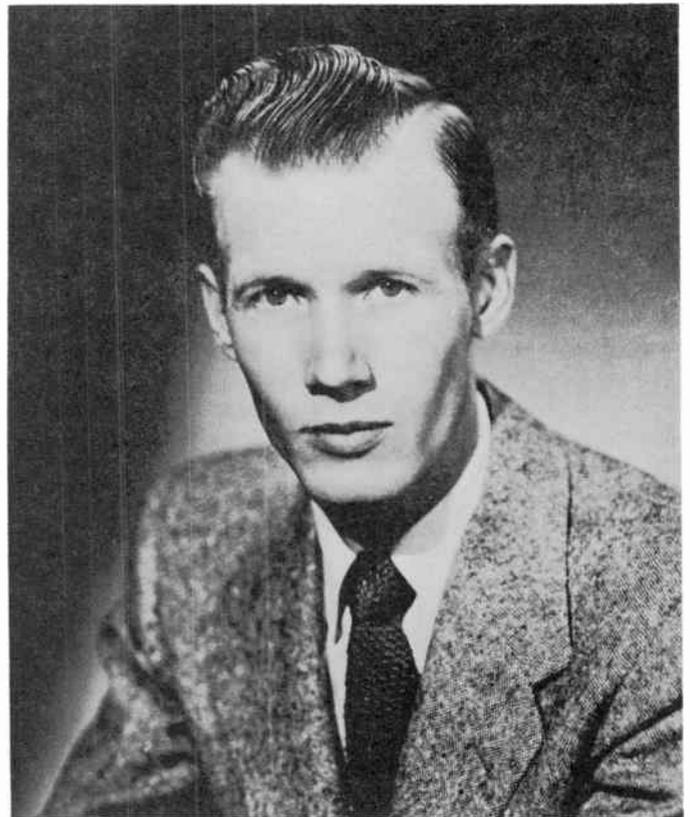
When not traveling, Margie makes her home in Nashville, Tennessee, and finds fun in everything she does. Even routine things and work are fun to her, and her young outlook on life is fully expressed in her statement, “I just enjoy life, every bit of it. Sometimes I may get moody, but I am glad, because I can put my feelings into song and make the song seem real”.

Margie deeply feels that her success has been accomplished by working hard and doing the very best she can to achieve her goal as an entertainer. But we think her tremendous voice and exciting personality has a great deal to do with her success.

Country & Western’s Big Record Selling Artists



TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD of Capitol Records



ERNEST ASHWORTH of Hickory Records



THE KINGSTON TRIO of Capitol Records



PETER, PAUL AND MARY of Warner Bros. Records

Folk Music Makes the Country Music Scene



THE SPRINGFIELDS of Phillips Records



THE LIMELIGHTERS of R.C.A. Victor Records



MARGIE SINGLETON

The names of Singleton and Mercury Records automatically spell wonderful things in the world of entertainment to music lovers the world-over. The artist half of the Singleton family, is lovely Margie Singleton, who is the 'sweetheart of the country music field' and the real life sweetheart of Mercury Records' Country & Western A&R man, Shelby Singleton.

Life in the Singleton family is a hectic world of recording sessions and dashing trips from coast to coast, but Margie takes it in her stride. At home in a recording studio whether she is cutting a session or peeking from the sidelines while dynamic husband Shelby is recording other famed Mercury artists, she and Shelby truly make things happen at Mercury.

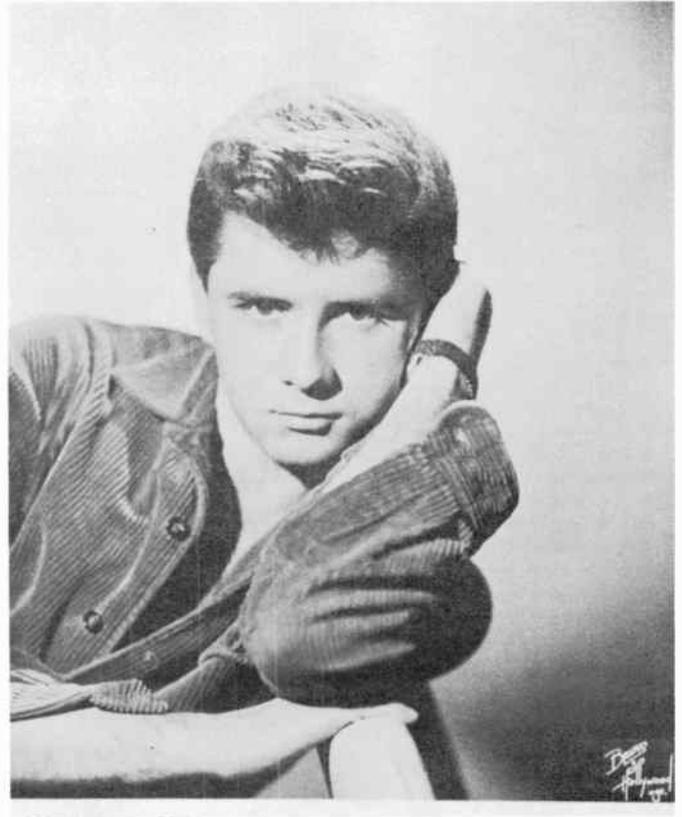
Born with a talent for singing, Margie began singing from the time she was a mere tot, but did not begin her singing career in earnest until 1957, when she recorded her first disc on Starday Records. Nobody got too excited about the young artist until she cut her hit record of "The Eyes of Love". Within weeks, "Eyes Of Love" shot up to the top of the hit charts and in 1960 she was voted one of the "Most Up And Coming Female Vocalists of 1960".

Established as a top country music star, Margie found more fame via the medium of television, and frequent appearances on the Grand Ole Opry. Her repeated performances on the well known TV shows won her more rave notices, thousands of fans, and an exclusive recording contract with Mercury Records in 1960. Her hit Mercury disks of "She Will Break Your Heart", "Your Old Love Letters", and a duet with popular George Jones, "Did I Ever Tell You" led to her zooming stardom as a recording star.

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



CLAUDE KING of Columbia Records



JOHNNY TILLOTSON of Cadence Records



BUCK OWENS AND BAND, Stars of Capitol Records



ELVIS PRESLEY, R.C.A. Victor Recording Artist

JOHNNY CASH

Starring in concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, Johnny Cash recently drew capacity crowds—an unusual achievement for a young singer who began as a Country and Western artist.

Born on a farm near Kingsland, Arkansas ("just a wide place in the road"), Johnny grew up with hard work and singing. He remembers singing hymns with his family almost constantly while doing his chores on the farm.

At 12 Johnny was writing songs. During his high school years, he sang on radio station KLCN, Blytheville, Arkansas. At 22, Johnny enlisted in the Air Force. Following his discharge he was making a poor living as an appliance salesman in Memphis when he met Luther Perkins, who played guitar, and Marshall Grant, who played bass. They immediately began getting together every night at home, diligently rehearsing even though no professional career was in sight.

Finally, Johnny and his "Tennessee Two" gathered enough courage to approach Sam Phillips of Sun Records for an audition. His voice shaky with fright, he began to sing. When he got to a song of his own called "Hey, Porter", Phillips stood up, turned on the recording equipment and asked Johnny to do it again. In that one take the first side of the first Cash record was made. Everyone was at a loss for the other side, which Mr. Phillips felt should be a love song, so Johnny went home that night and wrote a weeper titled "Cry, Cry, Cry". He was subsequently signed to a contract. Leaving Mr. Phillips' office, he walked onto the street with 15¢ in his pocket. He gave the 15¢ to a beggar,

got into his car, and just as he arrived home, ran out of gas.

Then the Johnny Cash story turned rosy. "Cry" sold over 100,000 copies in the South alone. "I Walk the Line", "Folsom Prison Blues", "Ballad of a Teen-Age Queen"—every record he made became a hit. Composing, too was easy. "I write songs anywhere—in the back of the car, in hotel rooms, on planes," Johnny says. Although he "writes" so successfully, he cannot read a note of music. He composes songs in his head and plays them enough times for the boys to learn them. The method apparently works; his tunes have sold nearly 10 million disks (including those recorded by other artists).

Johnny switched to Columbia Records in the Fall of 1958, and the demand for his wares grew even more. His initial single for Columbia, "Don't Take Your Guns to Town", passed the half-million mark, and his first album, *THE FABULOUS JOHNNY CASH*, soared to a 400,000 figure. Since joining Columbia, he has never recorded an album which sold less than 100,000 copies. Johnny's newest album, *HYMNS FROM THE HEART*, was released by Columbia in March.

In addition to a staggering number of personal appearances, he began developing as an actor and has been seen in many TV Westerns plus a movie, "Five Minutes to Live".

In spite of his great success, he still considers himself a country boy. He maintains a home and business office in far-out Ventura, California, because he "had to get out of the city". There he lives with his wife Vivian and their four little daughters—Rosanne, Kathy, Cindy and Tara. •

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



DICK FLOOD of Epic Records



LEON McAULIFF of Cimarron Records



JOHNNY CASH of Columbia & Sun Records

BURL IVES

BURL IVES, descended from Illinois farmers, river-boat gamblers and preachers, answers to the full name of Burl Icle Ivanhoe Ives, which rolls as rhythmically as the guitar accompaniment of his troubador's ballads.

In part, his story is that of many others who have achieved recognition in the entertainment field; the struggle up, the persistent desire to succeed, the initial recognition that brought his talent to the fore. The difference—Burl Ives stature is unparalleled in and outside the annals of show-business.

Drawing for repertoire upon his deep-south background and the experiences of a grandmother who crossed America in a covered wagon, he sings Irish songs with Ives-spiced auld sod flavor, sea chanties from the depth and width of an impressive frame; he sings Arlen, Lerner and Loewe, Porter and Rodger and Hart.

The Burl Ives approach to folk music is daring and unique. Yet to be duplicated, his secret is simplicity, honesty and fidelity to the origin of each selection.

Mr. Ives, not satisfied with being JUST singer-performer-innovator extraordinaire has become the successful author of an autobiography, and several comprehensive anthologies of folk music.

In addition, after years of being known almost exclusively as a musical, musical-comedy and comedy star, he very daringly accepted a dramatic role in the Broadway production of Tennessee Williams' "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof"

Within the folk-music area, Burl has found a storehouse of enjoyment and delight just for children. He tries each song on his own children first, and says if they howl for an encore, the song must be right.

Through the years, he has been consulted on almost everything from clothing styles and cooking, to human relations. His answers are always honest and unpretentious, made not as an oracular show-business legend, but as just one man, who has learned the art of living life fully.



Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



THE JIMMY MARTIN SHOW on Stage at the "Million Dollar" Golden Nugget, Downtown, Las Vegas, Nevada. Local Boy Bill Emerson on the 5-String Banjo



BILL CLIFTON of Starday Records



WANDA JACKSON of Capitol Records

Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



RAY PRICE



CARL BUTLER



GEORGE MORGAN

GEORGE JONES

The country music field got a "shot in the arm" when young George Jones developed his own distinct style, and joined the Mercury label. The public recognized an outstanding artist and personality with a new and different style.

An ex-marine, George hails from Beaumont, Texas. This handsome young singer has always loved string music and loves to entertain. The songs he sings are a part of his own humor and sentiment, since most of the music and lyrics were composed by George. His natural talent and versatility, not only in material, but in presentation has brought George stardom few entertainers have achieved in recent years.

After his discharge from service, George was invited to join the Grand Ole Opry, presented by Radio Station WSM of Nashville, Tennessee. A base of operation for the biggest names in the country music field where only the best are chosen for affiliation, George gained such tremendous popularity, America's country music lovers requested that they see and hear more and more of this talented artist.

Brought to the attention of Mercury Record's talent scouts, they decided that whatever it would take, tall young George Jones had it. Enjoying moderate success with his first few recordings, he went on to

record, "Why Baby Why", and the lid was off. His record skyrocketed to the top of the national hit charts in the country music division. Despite many competing recordings, the George Jones platter maintained its popularity and provided a solid foothold for following releases. Such songs as "What Am I Worth", "Seasons Of My Heart", "Ragged But Right", and "You Gotta Be My Baby", followed, and each was a national hit. Along with many recorded for United Artist's. A new bright talent was acclaimed as the biggest "hit" in country music for many years, and his ardent fans keep on listening to the golden voice of this exceptionally talented artist.

Because George is close to the people and knows from close contact what they want to hear, he wrote or helped to write every one of his collection of recordings. Knowing what he wants to record and how he wants it to sound, his ideas are solicited when he is recording, and his discs are a showcase for his versatility and talent.

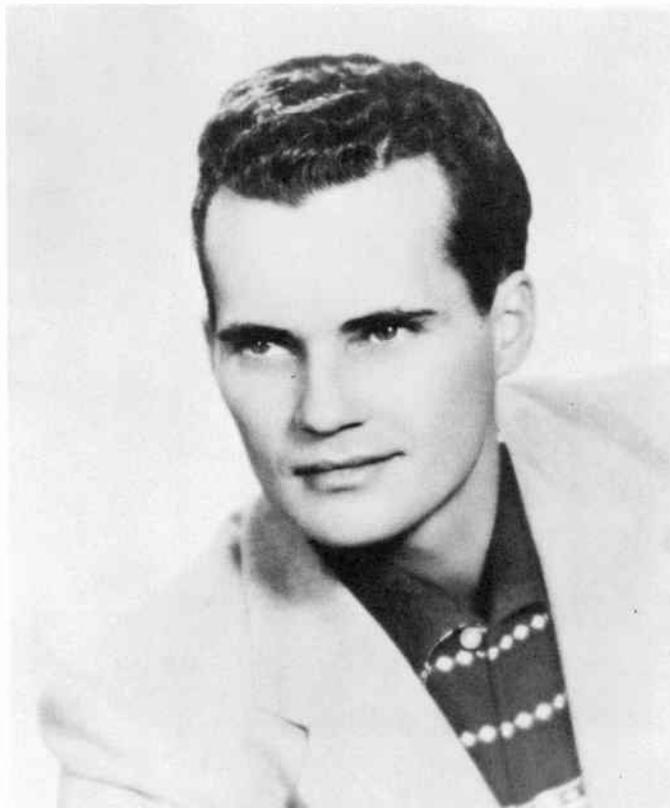
George Jones recordings have a habit of bouncing to the top-selling ranks as this young leatherneck continues rising to new heights, singing his way into the hearts of his fans throughout the nation.

A Marine has landed—right on top of the best-selling ranks!

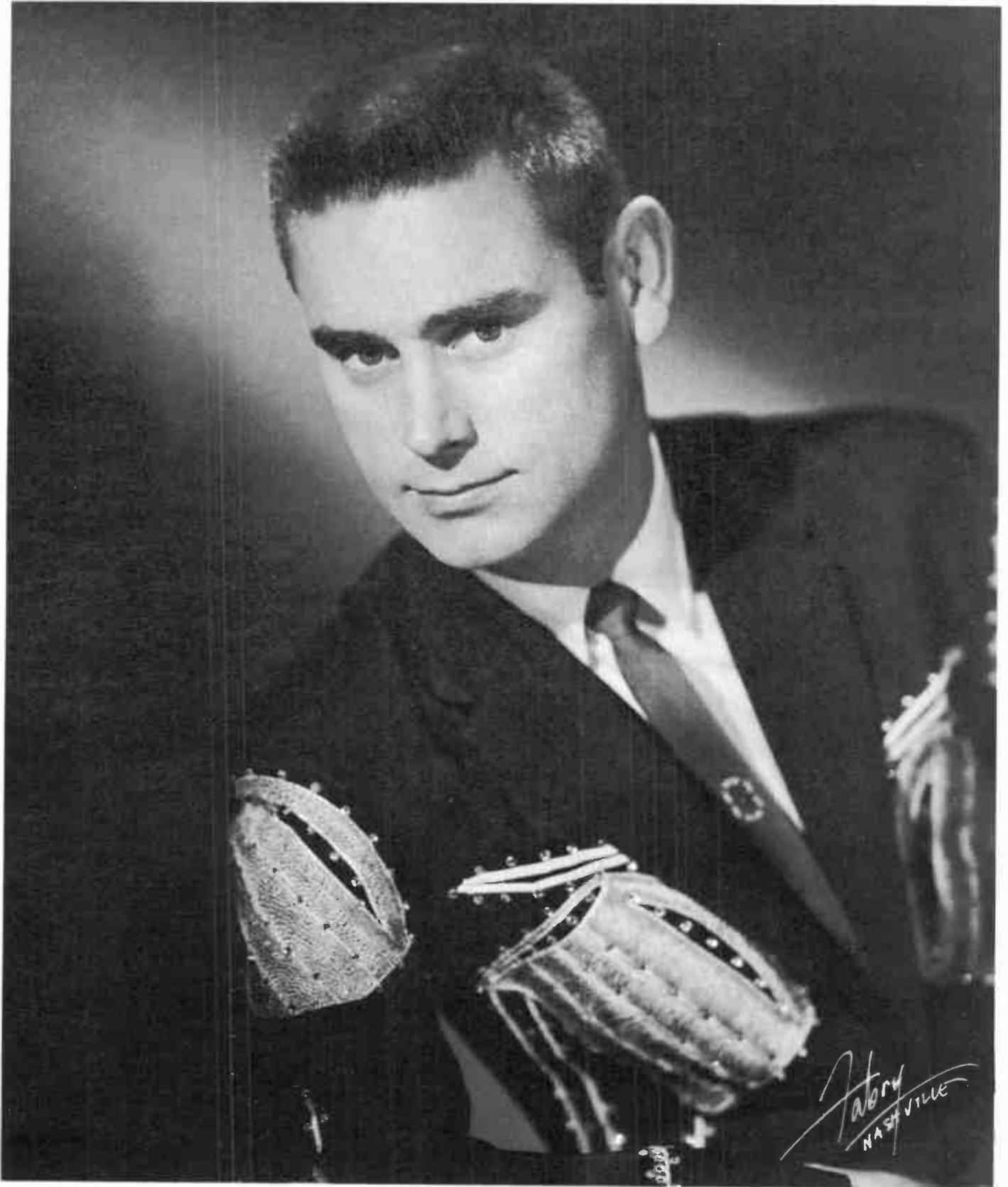
Country & Western's Big Record Selling Artists



RALPH & CARTER, "The Stanley Brothers,"
Famous Blue Grass Team out of Live Oak,
Florida, Recording for King Records



BOB BECKHAM of Decca Records



GEORGE JONES of United Artists Records

MERLE KILGORE

Merle Kilgore has come a long way from his days of "Toting guitars" for the greats of country music such as Hank Williams, Webb Pierce, Faron Young, Slim Whitman, and many others in the late 40's at the Louisiana Hayride, KWKH Radio in Shreveport, Louisiana.

As a teenager doing small chores for the stars played a big part in starting his career in country music. A kind word of advice from these stars made a lasting impression on Merle and later came out in all-time country songs pinned by him.

In 1954 Merle cut his first record and for five years he recorded but couldn't seem to break into the circle of hitmakers, then along came 42 IN CHICAGO which did very good for him, it became #18 in the nation and Merle's luck slowly began to change.

In 1960 Merle wrote a song called WOLVERTON MOUNTAIN which was recorded two years later by Mr. Claude King. This record was a giant and Merle still finds it hard to believe the success of it. To date, there has been 21 different recordings of it and in all has sold somewhere around 2 million copies.

Since WOLVERTON MOUNTAIN things have really been happening to Merle. He appeared at Carnegie Hall on May 12th singing JOHNNY REB, donned in a Confederate Uniform, on July 15th he appeared at the Hollywood Bowl with Johnny Cash, and he is now featured on the Johnny Cash Show from coast to coast. In 1962 he was voted "6 in the "Up and Coming Artists" by the Country Disc Jockeys in *Cash Box* and he is a regular feature on the Grand Ole Opry. He has also had recent recordings by such stars as: Rex Allen, Sheb Wooley, Jo Ann Campbell, June Carter and many, many others.

Merle is married and he and his lovely wife Dottie and their three children make their home in Nashville, Tennessee where Merle is Manager of the Nashville division of Painted Desert Music Corporation.



Country & Western's Brightest New Stars



FLOYD COLLEY of Gambler Records



**COUNTRY
JOHNNY
MATHIS**
of
**United Artists
Records**

**JOHNNY
&
JOANNIE
MOSBY**
of
**Columbia
Records**





MARVIN RAINWATER of MGM Records



LUKE GORDON of Blue Ridge Records

Washington, D.C.'s Own Country Talent That Made Good



THE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN
of Starday & Folkway Records



JIMMY HANEY of Jandel & Rebel Records



HANK THOMPSON



JIM AND JESSIE AND THE VIRGINIA BOYS

Country & Western
SNAP SHOTS
of
STARS



ROY ACUFF



JUDY LYNN



GRANDPA JONES



JIMMY DEAN



FARON YOUNG



JIMMIE SKINNER



CHARLIE WALKER



JUSTIN TUBB



DOC WILLIAMS



BOBBY LORD



ROSE MADDOX



TEX RITTER



JIMMY DICKENS of Columbia Records



PORTER WAGONER of R.C.A. Victor Records

Country & Western Snapshots of Stars



LEFTY FRIZZELL
of Columbia Records



SLIM WHITMAN
of Imperial Records



BILLY GRAMMER
of Decca Records



THE BLUE GRASS CHAMPS, Headed by Pop Stoneman and the Stoneman Family with Lou Childre. Scotty Stoneman, not seen in this early picture, is shown below right at work at WXRA-FM, a Country Music Station in Woodbridge, Virginia.



VERNON TAYLOR of Sun Records



SCOTTY STONEMAN of Starday Records



Scenes from the Last Motion Picture Jimmy Rodgers Made in the Early 30's



I REMEMBER JIMMIE RODGERS

by Don Owens of WAVA radio

THE FIRST JIMMIE RODGERS

The name Jimmie Rodgers is well known today because of the talented Camus, Washington, recording star of the same name, but record fans of an earlier era recall the name as representing a one man phenomena from Meridian, Mass., who made John McCormack, Paul Whiteman, Gene Austin and other greats of the twenties take a back seat while he gave them a lesson in selling "Talkin' Machine" records. Rodgers, that is the first Jimmie Rodgers, was a former brakeman who's bouts with TB forced him to turn from railroading to lighter chores, and he chose his hobby of music to enrich both the family larder, and unknowingly to Rodgers at the time, the entire world of Music. His was a unique combination of talent both as writer, vocalist, guitarist and yodeler. His "Blue Yodels" which attracted the attentions of RCA Recording scout Ralph Peer in August of 1927 were to become world famous and start a rash of imitators who would parley their own careers into all facets of the entertainment world. Perhaps his greatest contemporary was Gene Autry, but you can also include Eddy Arnold, Hank Snow, Hank Williams and even later day artists such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Elton Britt, Marty Robbins and Roy Orbison and others, who developed their interest in music thru Arnold, Snow, Ernest Tubb and others, perhaps never knowing that in effect their interest was part of a chain reaction set off years before by Jimmie Rodgers. Such favorites as "Frankie & Johnnie," "The One Rose," and "Muleskinner Blues," "I'm In The Jailhouse Now," first became vastly popular thru the efforts of Rodgers and RCA Victor, for whom he recorded. He was responsible for the sale of more guitars than any man living or dead, and in his brief recording career from August of 1927 thru May of 1933, he sold millions of the old fashioned 78 platters, and while they have gone the way of recording names of the day, Rodgers lives on thru the magic of sound in a new era of "Hi-Fi" and "Stereo" with almost a dozen best selling Lp's all of which contain efforts recorded before the "New Deal" was a word in our language, and while bath tub gin and flappers were still as plentiful as today's twisters. While Rodgers was able to overcome poverty, and the handicap of no formal musical education and became the first country artist to earn millions, drive custom built cars and live in a "50" thousand dollar mansion, he was not super-human enough to overcome the ravages of Tuberculosis which had dogged him throughout his career. While on a session in New York in May of 1933 he succumbed in the old Taft Hotel. The funeral train back to Mississippi attracted crowds which rivaled those of FDR's almost two decades later, and when he was laid to rest closing an amazing chapter in American Recording History, even his staunchest admirers could not have foreseen the vast contribution his talent made to the music world. For in thirty years since his death the singing cowboy has become a Multimillion dollar business, Country & Western departments, once frowned upon by diskories now contribute as much as seventy percent of revenue for major labels, and the guitar has passed the stage of being a rhythm instrument until it is now required equipment for an army of entertainers who are just discovering the folk songs and railroad ballads that Rodgers rendered on those whirling black disc's almost four decades ago. Shows like The Grand Old Opry have become part of a Seventy Million dollar a year business, and Rodgers must be smiling down from that "Great Recording Studio" in the sky on the college trio's and folk groups who can only try to approach his sincerity and authenticity in delivering a selection. In many parts of the world it is common knowledge that people have studied English solely to better understand Rodgers' music.



HANK WILLIAMS OF MGM RECORDS

I REMEMBER HANK WILLIAMS

By Don Owens WAVA Radio

The music world produces many great artists, via the concert stage, the conservatory, or thru other musical institutions. Many names hail from ordinary walks of life, and while they have limited formal musical training they demonstrate a native instinct that no academy can ever develop.

Hank Williams was one such product on the modern days of recording. Without formal education, either in the classroom or in the musical field, he was able to call upon some basic musical ability that was his thru a God-given gift. Traveling in small southern towns while broadcasting from local radio stations, he learned to judge his audience by personal contact, and he found that the straight from the heart songs, the tunes composed from some actual personal experience, held the greatest appeal for his fans. Years later this ability to select what his audience would respond to made him a great star.

My personal contact with Hank on several occasions showed me that he was largely unaffected by his fame from radio and records, and that his greatest desire was to find the kind of happiness we sometimes find only in songs. I do not feel Hank ever found that dream here on earth, and when he died at the youthful age of twenty-nine, perhaps his greatest monument was the fact that while he may never lived to find that elusive world of dreams, the songs he gave the world in his quest for an answer will live forever. Some like "Mansion On The Hill" were written in a scant period of thirty or forty minutes yet they seemed crafted thru years of labor. "Cold Cold Heart", "I Can't Help It", "Jambalaya", "Hey Good Lookin'" and Hank's other tunes contain little of the sophistication of Tin Pan Alley, yet they have attained a height of popularity unknown to other song-smiths. Hank used to say he called on the good Lord to help him write his tunes, and it seems as if some great power continues to perpetuate the ballads of the Alabama farm boy.

The Passing of an Era of Country Music

In Memory Of:

UNCLE DAVE MACON
TEXAS RUBY OWENS
JIMMIE OSBORNE
LONNIE IRVING
A. P. CARTER
RANDY HUGHES
FRED ROSE



ROD BRASFIELD



COWBOY COPAS



CARSON ROBISON



JOHNNY HORTON



JACK ANGLIN

"A Memorial Tribute To A Star" "PATSY CLINE"

by Don Owens

While, perhaps the old adage "only the good die young" is at best but a crude assessment of human dignity, there are many examples of gifted persons who's lives have been snuffed out by strange and melancholy hand of fate, prematurely.

In the world of music Russ Columbo, only 25, and at the peak of international fame, was the victim of a fatal shooting so unbelievable as to never be creditable in fiction. The late Hank Williams was only 29 when the grim reaper overtook him, and like Lord Byron, Keats, and Rupert Brook he represented to many flaming youth with an objective perception of life that often becomes dormant in older observers.

Patsy Cline was only thirty when her brief, meteoric career was brought to a tragic halt by a plane crash which also claimed the lives of Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins. It is only conjecture to compare those who "might" have risen to great heights had not death stepped in, and though it may be as senseless as comparing a Jack Dempsey with a Joe Louis, or a Rudolph Valentino with a Clark Gable, certainly those who knew Patsy were first to realize her versatility and depth would have given her equal footing with the top feminine vocalists of modern music, for she had that natural quality and vigor which so many of today's singers lack, and her appeal was largely based on the fact that her talent was legitimate, and the echo chamber, special arrangements or other technical tricks which plague the recording field today. If any one questioned Miss Cline's ability to belt out a ballad it was least of all Patsy, and this confidence was immediately apparent to any audience, for she was never the "scared" or "unsure" amateur who through a freak of modern promotion was catapulted into fame long before the proper delivery and stage presence was developed. What ever difficulties Patsy may have had, singing, and the natural sense of a quality performance was not one of them.

The veteran performers were first to realize this and root for her, as they perhaps are always first to comprehend a great talent.

Many will lament the passing of Patsy Cline, and there are those who are feverishly cashing in on her tragic death, but to those who knew Patsy best you can be sure her greatest monument is the fact that she was a trooper in the true sense of the word, and on

that rainy morning when the curtain finally rang down, perhaps prematurely by earthly standards, Patsy would be the first to proudly say "I told you I'd go out big". This Tribute written by The Late Don Owens one week before his own tragic death.



**PATSY, VERNON TAYLOR, AND THE LATE DON OWENS at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Posing for a Promotion Shot**



The Late King Records Recording Star, HAWKSHAW HAWKINS

A TRIBUTE TO A COUNTRY PHILOSOPHER AND A FRIEND "DON OWENS"

by Jim Clark

With regret Sunday morning April 21, Washington radio lost in a tragic automobile accident, one of the country's Top Ten Country Music personalities, considered by the trade "The Dean of Country Music" since he knew every facet of the business and artist history, he was a walking encyclopedia of Country Music, called by many of his friends. Don Owens was much more than a dee-jay, he was a family institution, thousands of people between 12 and 4, made it a ritual to listen to this country philosopher as he opened his show with "Howdy, howdy and a bright good day to you all," was a ray of sunshine for so many people who depended on Don every week day afternoon.

Don was a man of firm convictions which he lived by, and a man who respected other people's opinions, no matter how left or right of the fence it was. This was one of the magical qualities that endeared him for so many years in the hearts of his listeners.

Since a child Don always loved Country Music, while in the Air Force in '51, he bought his first and only guitar, a Martin for \$125. plus \$40 for the case, it was a special left-handed guitar they made for him.

Don idolized such Country stars as the late Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Williams and Pop Stoneman, Mac Wiseman, Hank Snow, Jim Reeves, Ernest Tubb, and Eddy Arnold with the friendly handshake he always extended you when he met you on the street. Don's biggest thrill was interviewing Gene Autry at the Ambassador Hotel in '59 for his July 4th Anniversary show.

One of Don's first stage appearance's was at the theatre in Silver Spring with another up and coming hopeful named Bill Mayhugh, who made it big over the years and is currently with WOL. With a guitar and lots of guts they presented a program of fine Country songs. After working at various stations and returning home from Del Rio, Texas, Don landed a job on WARL now WAVA, in August 1954 which had the colorful Connie B. Gay, Phil Long, Sam Brown and Ray Armand. Don had the magic of reaching people whose ages were senior to his, and had a deep sincere respect for his many radio fans. One time Don brought some flowers to a faithful listener who was bed-ridden in the Arlington Hospital. These are some of the things no one knew and Don never talked about. This Country Philosopher never had an unkind word for anyone, he felt the old adage spoke true, "If you can't say something nice about someone, then don't say anything at all."

Don's biggest success came with a weekly television show over WTTG-Channel 5, called the T.V. Jamboree. He managed record stars Vernon

Taylor, Roy Clark, Jimmy Haney, Luke Gordon and the late Patsy Cline, he was to sign a new talent this May named Tommy Tucker, a RCA Victor artist. Among Don's compositions were "Adios Novia", "A Thief in the Heart of a Rose," "Satisfaction Guaranteed," "Cold Dark Waters," "What Would I Do Without You," and this month marked the release on Monument records of "Your Fool" b/w "I Hope You're Satisfied," written by Don and sung by him on the label owned by Fred Foster in Nashville. Fred wanted Don to produce an album of hymns for the company, and this as stated by Don himself, would of been his greatest wish, if he had lived.

I think the only lowest moment that Don felt in his bright radio career was the tragic plane crash that took the lives of Opry Stars, Patsy Cline, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Cowboy Copas and Patsy's manager Randy Hughes, after coming from a benefit for Jack Call a C&W Dee-Jay in Kansas City, who was killed in an automobile accident. Later that week a car accident killed Jack Anglin of The Johnny and Jack team on route to services for the Opry stars, and the tragedy of Ruby Owens the week later, also Sleepy McDaniels, a bass player for the Hank Snow band, who died under natural causes of a heart attack. Don wrote a glowing memorial to the memory of Patsy Cline, just a week before his fatal accident which we are presenting along with this article as Don would of like it.

The pallbearers at the funeral were Cy Blumenthal, Bob Cobbins, Perry Westland, Joe Sissler, Jim Clark, Vernon Taylor Alderton, Mike Tolley, Eddie Matherly, and Arthur Arundel. All close friends, as were his honorable pallbearers at the funeral, who were Tom Reeder, Mac Wiseman, Jack Clement, Roger Miller, Sid Slappy, Nathan Loube, Jimmy Haney and Luke Gordon.

I think Don was, without getting soapy or sentimental, was truly one of the finest human beings that the broadcasting industry has ever known or will ever meet. I truly thank the good Lord for this has been a most rewarding experience of my life, also an inspiration to have known Don these past years and to have been counted as one of his many friends. He will be missed by many. And thus ends an era of Country Music.

These final thoughts written by Don himself as an epitaph, when he passed on, an inspiring four line passage.

"Sing my songs when day is done
For they were meant to cheer.
Whisper low their melodies,
And soon I will be near."



Don's Recent TV Jamboree — Left to Right — JIMMY HANEY, JOE CARROLL, DANNY PENDLETON, VERNON TAYLOR, THE STONEMAN FAMILY, DON, RODGER GOROOM, DUKE MADDOX, DENNY PILGRIM and Below in Front, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN GLOUGGERS SQUARE DANCE TEAM



DON OWENS of Blue Ridge Records



Left to Right—Don Owens, Roy Davis, Jimmy Dean, and Bill Carlisle



Left to Right—Mrs. Tubb, Ernest, The Late Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers and Don Owens



Marshall Pack, Starday recording artist and one of America's top Gospel and Country radio personalities heard locally in Washington over WPIK and WXRA. "The Passing of A Don" written by Marshall as a tribute to one of his personal friends and a friend to many "Don Owens" shown on the next column.

A Tribute To A Country Philosopher "DON OWENS"

CONCLUSION

"The Passing Of A Don"

(Dedicated to the memory of Don Owens—Impresario, Entrepreneur, and Friend)

*I go now where countless millions tread
I join the endless columns of the dead
My soul no longer rife with fears
embraces death's relentless years*

*My flesh must cling again to mother earth
whose gestation gave me birth
I seek her sepulchre to take my rest
for I am tired of wordly quest*

*The heights to which my soul aspired
the noble aims my heart desired
are relegated to the tomb
that dark abyss of wretched gloom*

*The storm within at last subsides
I am at peace on darker tides
outward bound on homeward sea's
my port of call—eternity*

Original Poem by
Marshall Pack
720 Barnum Lane
Alexandria, Virginia

Precious Memories Time

A very popular country hymn time and gospel program featuring Marshall Pack with Chuck Sullivan and Harry Corral over WPIK, 730 on the dial, every Saturday morning, 7 am to 9 am.



BLACKWOOD BROTHERS



MILLIE BLACKBURN



STATESMEN



STUART HAMBLLEN



JIMMIE DAVIS



EDDIE MATHERLY

EDDIE MATHERLY voted as one of the top ten Country Music Announcers in the nation in 1956, is now on WDON.

EDDIE MATHERLY was born and raised in Montgomery County but has never lived in our Montgomery County! . . . Reason,—he was born and raised in Montgomery County, *Southern Virginia* whereas, he will now be working and living in Montgomery County, Md., home of WDON, the "Big D around D.C."

EDDIE is married to the former Miss ELLA RUARK of Cambridge, Md. They have two daughters, MELODY DAWN and GAIL.

He is a Navy Veteran (World War II) a member of the Odd Fellows, and a former member of the District Governor's Board of Lions International of Delaware.

He began in radio at Pocomoke, Md. in 1952. In 1958, EDDIE spent six months on the WSM all-night show, the 50,000 watt Nashville "grand-pappy" of all C&W stations. In 1959, EDDIE worked as D.J. at WICO, Salisbury, Md. from there to WKCW at Warrenton where he has been most successful. . . so successful that he was almost elected to the Virginia State Senate in 1961. He would have been elected except for the fact that he was a write-in candidate—almost made it, even at that. For a time, prior to going back to his old love, emceeing C&W programming, he managed WKCW. He is highly interested in civic affairs and works enthusiastically for the betterment of the community.

EDDIE MATHERLY brings to WDON a wealth of experience in the Country Music field, and WDON gives to EDDIE the opportunity of reaching better than 2 million people in the one Big Metro Market that has been starved for this type of music for several years. It's a winning combination, and we of WDON, are happy to have EDDIE MATHERLY join ranks with us. Welcome EDDIE, to the Home of Good Guys and Gals, WDON.

WDON BRINGS COUNTRY MUSIC BACK TO THE WASHINGTON A.M. LISTENING AUDIENCE



DON DILLARD of the WDON Morning Show, One of the Brightest Shows in Washington



MIKE KELLEY, the Major Link of the WDON Operations, One of Washington's Most Popular Country D.J.'s

INTRODUCING . . . JIMMIE McCOY

From the hills of West Virginia to the turntables of Station WHPL, Winchester, Virginia . . . where he is the top Country DJ in the area . . . Jim McCoy's main ambition has been to become a leading Country singer. He has steadily moved forward towards that goal and is destined to become a big star in Country Music in the very near future.

Jim, born on a farm outside of Berkely Springs, West Virginia, in 1929, started in radio on Station WJEJ in Hagerstown, Maryland. Here, at the age of 14, he was one of the nation's youngest DJ's. He was then heard on Station WINC, Winchester, where he organized The Melody Playboys.

The Melody Playboys, a band and vocal group, have been together for the past 12 years and make personal appearance throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Jim and the band have appeared on scores of live radio and television shows throughout this area. These include the WWVA Jamboree, Wheeling, West Virginia and country music events in Nashville, Tennessee. Jim is available for booking anywhere in the world as a single or with The Melody Playboys. When you book this act you are assured of an excellent, clean and fast-moving country music show.

Jim now makes his home in Overlook Hills, Winchester, Virginia. He is married and the proud father of three children . . . Sharon, Andy and Kevin. His favorite hobby is collecting songs and records. His favorite performer is Ernest Tubb.

Much of the credit of Jim's success thus far goes to his good friend and boss, John Bell, WHPL Manager, who has given him the needed encouragement.



The Area's Country Music Disk-Jockeys

Acknowledgement to all the D.J.'s who promote country music in and around D.C.

JIM CLARK, WDON	WHEATON, MD.
ROY SELF, WDON	WHEATON, MD.
PHILL LONG, WEEL	FAIRFAX, VA.
BILL THOMPSON, WEEL	FAIRFAX, VA.
HAPPY JOHNNY, WFMD	FREDERICK, MD.
TOMMY THOMPSON, WKCW	WARRENTON, VA.
JIM BECK, WKCW	WARRENTON, VA.
RAY DAVIS, WBMD	BALTIMORE, MD.
CHUCK SULLIVAN, WXRA	WOODBIDGE, VA.
COUSIN RAY, WXRA	WOODBIDGE, VA.
REX HARRISON, WXRA	WOODBIDGE, VA.
BOBBY BROWN & TINY HUGHES & BUTTERBALL PAGE	



Mighty BIG JIM TURNER
of WXRA in Woodbridge, Va.



SONNY JAMES



ROGER MILLER



BILLY WALKER

Country & Western Snap Shots of Stars



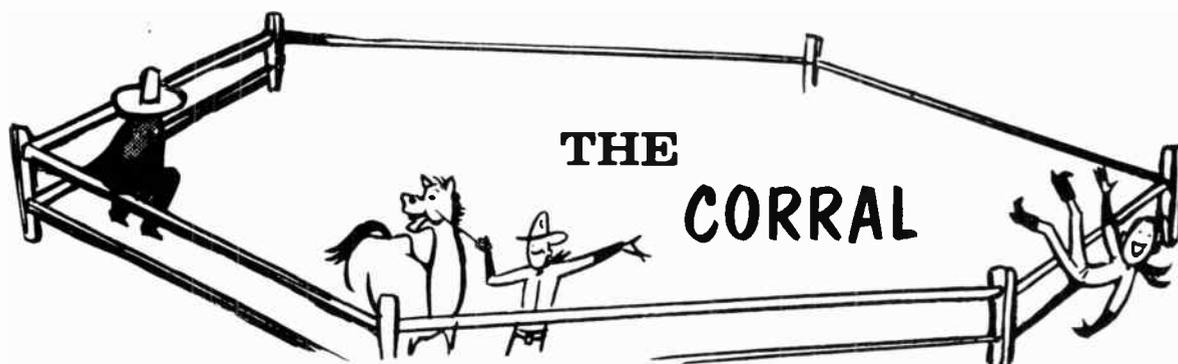
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JOHNNY "PANCAKE" NORRIS

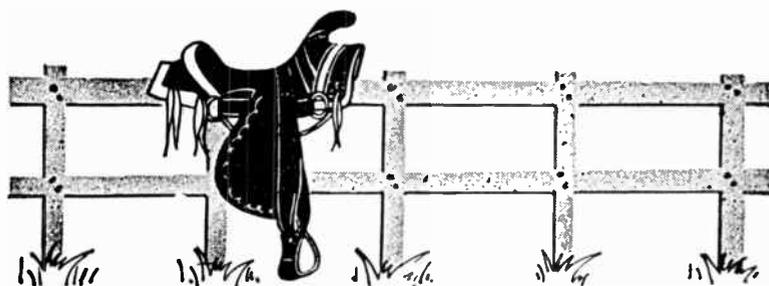
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