Grand Ole Opry Artists

JERRY BYRD

Jerry Byrd is considered by many the number one guitar player in the country. Jerry, who has been a musician longer than he sometimes likes to remember, started in radio in 1938. In 1947 he came to the Grand Ole Opry as "steel" Guitarist, playing for Ernest Tubb and later Red Foley.

In 1948 Jerry returned to Cincinnati for a period of three years, where he made a hit on both radio and TV. Jerry is now back at WSM and the Grand Ole Opry where he does both radio and TV. Jerry, at the present is a featured act with the George Morgan show. The Jerry Byrd family includes wife, Thelma Marie, and daughter Lani Jo, age 3 years. Jerry is an ardent fisherman, and fishing occupies all his spare time.

CARTER SISTERS

One of the most versatile groups in radio today is the Carter Sisters group, consisting of Mother Maybelle and her three daughters. Mother Maybelle is one of the original Carter Family, an earlier group of country style entertainers. She plays a guitar and sings.

June Carter acts as mistress of ceremonies and has her own specialty acts.

Anita plays the bass fiddle, and sings solo numbers in a beautifully tuneful voice with a hauntingly unusual quality. Helen plays the accordion and sings with the group.

The Carters are from Virginia, where they own a prosperous farm. The father was a railway postal clerk, but he has now given up his postal work to act as their manager. Since they have joined the Grand Ole Opry, several years ago, the entire family has made Nashville its home. Helen and Anita are married and June recently married Carl Smith.

LEW CHILDRE

Lew Childre has appeared on transcribed radio programs all over the country for more than ten years. He has also made personal appearances all over the United States, working tent shows, auditoriums and clubs. He is considered one of radio's outstanding personalities. From the moment he starts his theme song, to his own guitar accompaniment, the audience knows he's going to present a good show. Lew has been in show business all his life. He performs in no particular costume but merely wears informal clothes that might be worn by any Alabama resident.

MARTHA CARSON

Martha Carson started picking out folk tunes and spiritual numbers on her mail order guitar when she was in grammar school, began composing songs of her own before she was ten years old, and was a favorite entertainer in the Kentucky rural sections while in her early teens. She entered the professional music field as featured artist on radio station WSB in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was retained by popular demand, for more than four years. From there, Martha Carson headed her own programs on various stations in Knoxville, Tennessee, Birmingham, Alabama, and others. Recently, a Birmingham station celebrated "Martha Carson Day" during which they played all her numbers, starred this attractive songstress throughout the entire day and hailed Martha as one of the most popular and beloved folk music stars of the country.

Martha Carson joined the cast of the WSM Grand Ole Opry in the Spring of 1952.