



COUNTRY ROUND UP

For the rest of this week it would be greatly appreciated if everyone would walk on tiptoes and speak in whispers. Please don't slam any doors, blast any radios or rattle any typewriters. And, by all means, hyping should be done softly . . . very softly.

While a few of us are nursing broken pledges and suffering from pangs of conscience (as well as other pangs), there are still a good many country folk who are out hustling up business for themselves. In fact, a whole batch of big names got together for a New Year's Day blast out at the Masonic Hall in Davenport, Iowa. The lineup featured such luminaries as Webb Pierce, Red Sovine, Dottie West & the Heartaches, Del Reeves, Bobby Lord and Ernie Ashworth, who helped ring in 1967 in a big way. . . . Speaking of Dottie West, the winsome miss is set to record a gospel album session this month with a batch of tunes not ordinarily associated with country artists. The session will be called "Dottie West Sings Sacred Ballads" and is slated for a June release.

The Moeller Talent stable will be kicking off the New Year on the right foot, with a whole passel of acts doing the circuit scene, especially the club circuit. Jan. 17-29 will find the Homesteaders in Milwaukee at Nick's Nic-A-Bob while Grandpa Jones will be at Toronto's famed Horseshoe Tavern Jan. 16-21. George Morgan moves into that same Horseshoe from Jan. 23-28 and will be at Mr. Lucky's in Phoenix the first four days in Feb., following Dottie West, who will entertain at the Arizona nitery Jan. 18-21. A longtime country showcase, the flame in Minneapolis will feature Carl and Pearl Butler Jan. 30-Feb. 4.

Puerto Rico will be flooded with country music once again when Dick Flood returns Feb. 21-Mar. 5 for another stint at Ramey AFB, plus performances at Roosevelt Road Naval Station. Dick's recent tour of Ramey was reportedly a sellout. Just prior to his heading for the Caribbean, he has a schedule that includes stops at Goldsboro, N.C. (Jan. 6), Biloxi (13), Panama City, Fla. (14), Valdosta, Ga. (18), Columbus, Ga. (19), Little Rock (20-21) and Clearwater, Fla. (27-28). In addition, he will play Montgomery, Ala. and Ft. Benning, Ga. during the month of Feb.

The Buck Owens Show will be heading for the Land of the Rising Sun come Feb. Starting with a Feb. 1 show at Tokyo, the tour will include mostly civilian concerts throughout Japan, as well as appearances in about 6 military bases. From there the tour will include stopovers in the Phillipines, Okinawa and Viet Nam where the group will entertain our fighting men. It should be quite a morale booster.

Billy Deaton tells us that he and Faron Young have renewed their radio show with Pearl Beer for the fourth year. Billy boasts that the show is the most successful syndicated radio operation in Country-musicland.

Little Jimmy Dickens knew that his benefit appearance at Oxnard AFB would occur on his birthday Dec. 20 and he also knew that his wife and daughter were flying out to meet him for the occasion in California. However, he did not know about the rousing party planned in his honor at the Officer's Club on the base. Topping off the surprise was a huge birthday cake from which leapt a beautiful girl. The girl was easily recognized: daughter Pam, age 10.



CHECKIN' THE LIST—Little Darlin's top gun, Johnny Paycheck takes time out during a recent trip to New York to visit the offices of Music-Music-Music Inc. to review material for his upcoming album, to be cut next month. However, everyone stops for a while when the charts come out, and Johnny's no exception. Along with MMM veep, Phyllis Fairbanks, the songster scans the CB Top 50 to check on the progress of his latest hit single, "Motel Time Again," which is currently inside our top 20.

In the station news is WJRZ-Newark spinner Bob Lockwood who's doing some activity with his "Avenue Of Tears" outing on Countryopolitan. With his fame spreading far and wide, old Bob saw how the other half lives recently when he appeared as a special guest on the Joe Franklin TVer in New York. . . . Slim Whitman, Sue Thompson, Roy Clark and the K-SOP Wranglers packed the Terrace in Salt Lake City recently for Radio KSOP in one of the biggest country shows of '66 in that city. The station also claims to have pulled in top ratings in the market according to a recent Pulse survey. . . . Chicago-land's nighttime voice of country music, WOPA-Oak Park will soon increase its FM power to 50,000 watts. The station follows no strict Top 40 or 50 format, according to deejay Bernie Harville, and all labels and artists, big or small, are welcome. . . . Charlie Grant down at WGRV-Greenville, Tenn. reports that the station came up with a novel gimmick to help push country music during the Christmas season. Spots were run during the day with messages like "This Christmas give a gift of music . . . give country music records. A lot of stores in Greenville sell country records, pick out several today." According to the merchants, the spots went over extremely well.

Nashville is coming to expect the unlikely from Jack Clement and what could be more unlikely than engaging a law school graduate as business manager for a Country Music publishing firm. However, Clement has announced the addition to his staff of M. M. Cavender due to physical and administrative expansion of Jack Music, Inc. In regards to his new business manager, Clement joshingly explains that the legal term for "buyer beware" is caveat emptor, not cavender.



TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | THE BEST OF SONNY JAMES 2
(Capitol T/ST 2615) | 16 | FREE AND EASY 24
Dave Dudley
(Mercury MG 21098/SR 61093) |
| 2 | YOU AIN'T WOMAN ENOUGH 1
Loretta Lynn (Decca DL 4783/7 4783) | 17 | HAPPINESS IS YOU 16
Johnny Cash (Columbia CL 2537/CS 9337) |
| 3 | BORN TO SING 9
Connie Smith (RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3628) | 18 | THE DRIFTER 15
Marty Robbins
(Columbia CL 2527/CS 9327) |
| 4 | SWINGIN' DOORS 3
Merle Haggard (Capitol T/ST 2585) | 19 | A MILLION AND ONE 18
Billy Walker
(Monument MLP 8047/LSP 3507) |
| 5 | ALMOST PERSUADED 4
David Houston
(Epic LN 24213/BN 26213) | 20 | I'LL TAKE THE DOG 23
Jean Shepard & Ray Pillow
(Capitol ST/T 2537) |
| 6 | NAT STUCKEY SINGS 8
(Paula LP 2192) | 21 | THE SEELY STYLE 20
Jeannie Seely
(Monument MLP 8057/SLP 18057) |
| 7 | LEAVIN' TOWN 7
Waylon Jennings
(RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3620) | 22 | BIG BEN STRIKES AGAIN 26
Ben Colder (MGM E/SE 4421) |
| 8 | SOMEBODY LIKE ME 11
Eddy Arnold (RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3715) | 23 | COUNTRY CHARLIE PRIDE 27
(RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3645) |
| 9 | WE FOUND HEAVEN RIGHT
HERE ON EARTH AT 4033 12
George Jones (Musicor MM 2106/MS 3106) | 24 | CARNEGIE HALL CONCERT 14
Buck Owens & Buckaroos
(Capitol T/ST 2556) |
| 10 | ANOTHER BRIDGE TO BURN 5
Ray Price (Columbia CL 2528/CS 9328) | 25 | DISTANT DRUMS 13
Jim Reeves
(RCA Victor LPM 3542/LSP 3542) |
| 11 | YOURS SINCERELY 10
Jim Reeves
(RCA Victor LPM 3709/LSP 3709 E.) | 26 | IF THE WHOLE WORLD
STOPPED LOVIN' 29
Roy Drusky
(Mercury MG 21097/5R 61097) |
| 12 | THE LAST WORD IN
LONESOME 6
Eddy Arnold (RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3622) | 27 | GREAT COUNTRY SONGS —
Don Gibson (RCA Victor LPM, LSP 3680) |
| 13 | ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE
AND WAR 21
Stonewall Jackson
(Columbia CL 2509/CS 9309) | 28 | LIVE CONCERT —
Willie Nelson (RCA Victor LPM, LSP 3659) |
| 14 | THERE GOES MY
EVERYTHING 22
Jack Greene (Decca DL 4845/7 4845) | 29 | NORMA JEAN SINGS A
TRIBUTE TO KITTY WELLS 30
(RCA Victor LPM/LSP 3664) |
| 15 | WHERE IS THE CIRCUS 17
Hank Thompson
(Warner Bros. W/WS 1664) | 30 | COUNTRY HITS —
Leroy Van Dyke (Warner Bros. W/WS 1652) |

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