



# COUNTRY ROUNDUP

Peer-Southern's Roy Horton has made it known that the publishing house has planned a celebration of Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Day on May 26, and will send out approximately 1500 Jimmie Rodgers kits to deejays in both country and pop markets. The kits contain a bio of the singing brakeman, as well as a discography of his material. In addition, Peer-Southern is planning a promotion campaign on the new Columbia release by Guitar Crusher, "Waiting for a Train," which was written by the late Hall of Fame personality. Stations receiving the kits who would like any of the material may write directly to Peer-Southern at 1619 Broadway in New York.



**PORT OF ROY-ALTY** — Roy Drusky, who turned down a baseball career to make his fame as a recording artist, is also a speed demon at heart, as evidenced by the brand new, modified hot-rod with which the songwriter is shown posing. A mellow, easy-going personality both at home and behind the mike, Drusky has been known to do a Jekyll-Hyde switcheroo when he gets behind the wheel of a well balanced machine such as the '62 Chevy in the photo. With an output of almost 500 horsepower, the car finished fourth in the Southern 100 last year, and should see a lot of action with Roy on Nashville's Fairground Speedway, as well as in events in Huntsville, Birmingham and Vacan.

Country music played Transatlantic ping-pong last week as Tree tune-smith (and songstress par excellence) Dottie West bounced back from a tour of Europe just in time to meet and greet Tree's German representative Johann Michel on his arrival at the Nashville airport. Just three weeks earlier Michel had given the red carpet treatment to Dottie as she and the Heartaches arrived in Frankfurt to begin their trek. Michel, who also spent time in N.Y. before his return to Europe last week (3) received a thorough indoctrination and orientation into the workings of the Nashville firm, and Music City's country business in general. Visits by other Tree reps have been slated during the coming months for meetings with Mack Stapp and Buddy Killen while an annual Nashville conference for all the firm's reps is being considered. The power of country radio programming is being utilized this spring as broadcasters coast-to-coast, and in Canada unite to publicize the newly-opened Country Music Hall of

Fame and Museum. The Country Music Foundation has prepared special public service kits which have been mailed to all full-time C&W stations along with live copy and recorded spots by such name artists as Eddy Arnold, Minnie Pearl, George Morgan and Dottie West. Thus far, reports from programmers on the effect of the spots has been highly favorable. Broadcasters wishing to receive the kit may write to Bill Hudson, c/o CMA, 16th Ave. So. in Nashville.

The Stonemans taped another syndicated TV spot last week (5), this one for the Philadelphia-based Mike Douglas Show. The taping, to be aired at a future date, follows right behind their recent taping of the Tonight Show with Jimmie Dean handling the reins. . . . David Houston has taped his Grammy Award-winning "Almost Persuaded" for the upcoming 4th Annual TV special, "The Best On Record." The show will be aired on May 24. . . . Bonnie Owens takes time from her tour package to wing into Nashville for Capital sessions this week (11 & 12), backed by the Strangers and cut under the guidance of Ken Nelson, who hops in from Hollywood for the job. . . . Songsmith Eddie Miller's latest batch of releases include Buddy Greco's "There She Goes," Jean Wells' "After Loving You," "I'll Pick Up The Pieces" by Gerrie Lynn and, last but not least, one from daughter Pam called "Throw A Little Love My Way." . . . Van Trevor, just stirring up noise with his latest, "I Think He's Losing His Mind," left last week for Music City where he cuts his first sessions for the Date label. . . . Charlie Pride recently concluded another tour of Texas, where he was re-booked by popular demand. Pride drew turnaway crowds in Conroe, Tex. and in San Antonio. . . . Ray Mefford has just cut an Accent LP, "Ray Mefford — Country Sounds," slated for release this month. A single from the album, "Mark Of The Ball And Chain" b/w "We Could," is set for immediate release.

WSM spinner Ralph Emery has just had his latest ABC-Paramount deck released, coupling "Late Night Morning Sidewalks" and "In The Misty Moonlight." Speaking of Emery, on his "Opry Star Spotlight" show he recently kicked off the 4th year of the Opry Network, saluting all the stations that carry the broadcast. Artists present at the celebration included George Hamilton IV, Marion Worth, Ernie Ashworth, Charlie Louvin, Ray Pillow and the Four Guys, with Emery and Tex Ritter hosting. . . . WCMS recently hosted a whopping country jamboree with two performances down at the Norfolk Municipal Arena. The show, which featured Ernest Tubb, Jack Greene, Cal Smith, the Texas Troubadors, Faron Young & the Deputies, Porter Wagoner, & the Wagonmasters, Norma Jean, Tompall & the Glaser Bros. and Rudy Wesley & the Palace Aides, concluded the stations series



**Country Plowboy**  
Helping celebrate "Eddy Arnold Month," WENO — Nashville staged "Eddy Arnold Day" further honoring the Tennessee Plowboy. Arnold, who was on hand during the day to act as a deejay, was presented with a gold plow which he promptly put to use by hooking up a team consisting of spinners Ed Hamilton, Don Anderson, Neal Merritt and Don Howser. Needless to say, the WENO gentlemen were definitely pulling for the songster.

## Hickory To Open Subsidiary Label

NASHVILLE — Hickory Records execs W. D. Kilpatrick and Lester Rose announced last week that the firm will market a second label, with the initial release slated for sometime this month. The label, which will be aimed primarily at pop and Top 40 material, is as yet unnamed. In a joint statement, Kilpatrick and Rose stated, "We have access to more production, both domestic and foreign, than we can accommodate on Hickory. A second label will enable us to broaden our record operation and serve a larger percentage of the

market." The two also announced that the move will present further opportunities from outside productions and master purchases. In addition, they pointed out that the distribution policy for the new label will not be exclusively Hickory. While some areas will utilize Hickory distributors, some areas will be given to other distributors. However, the soon-to-be diskery will utilize the present Hickory promotion staff, including Gene Kennedy (East), Wayland Stubblefield (South) and Del Roy (West Coast).

## Four In Hand

One of the latest acts to sign up with the Grand Ole Opry, the Four Guys meet with Opry manager Ott Devine and cement their new relationship with the traditional handshake. The boys, shown above with manager Bill Brock and Devine, have only been singing professionally for 3 months, marking the first time in 42 years that a group has become regular members of the WSM package in such a short period of time.



of winter-spring packages. . . . Steve Hollis has been named the new program director of WJRZ-Newark, replacing Ed Nielson. Hollis has been with the station, and its predecessors WNTA and WAAT, for about 17 years. . . . Don Rhea, now running the KBUC setup, tells us that the station made its first day-long broadcasts from remote trailer-studios during the annual Fiesta Week at San Antonio. The trailers were set up in the midst of the carnival that was set up for the occasion and carried a Lawrence Welk-type bubble machine on top. A nearby carnival worker had 3 nickel-toss booths where the crowd would throw coins at the plates that were set up, and, if the coins stayed on the plate, the throwers won prizes. Seems that the KBUC bubbles kept hitting the plates, causing the nickels to stick. After the carnival man cried that he was going broke, Rhea and the radio crew took pity and closed down the bubble machine. . . . KCAD-Abilene recently held "Bobby Lewis Day," which was capped off with the songster's appearance at the local Cow Palace. . . . The Countryopolitan Gentleman of WMQM-Memphis held a Chet Atkins Festival of Music, featuring Boots Randolph, Floyd Cramer, and, of course, Mr. Guitar. . . . The Singing Cherokee, who spins the country sounds nightly at KBET, tells us he is in desperate need of singles and LPs. Send disks to him at 1617 C Street, Sparks, Nev. Pictures can also be used for distribution to the audience. . . . WHIL-Boston has just expanded its country broadcasting to 16 hours a day. Program director Bob Ness tells us that the recently-opened New Beacon Club is having great success in bringing top country acts to that area. . . . KUZZ-Bakers-

field moved its studios and offices last week, with new headquarters in the El Cid Motor Hotel, 333 Union Ave., that city. . . . KTAW-Bryon, Tex. staged "Merle Haggard/Bonnie Owens Day" on Apr. 19, highlighted by the appearance of Merle, who took over deejay chores for several hours, answering questions from the staff and listeners all the time. . . . Bob Finnegan has been named program manager of WWVA-Wheeling, effective last week (1). Finnegan, who has been with the station since 1963, replaces Arlen Sanders who returned to his native California to take up a program director spot with KIEV-Glendale.

During his recent personal appearance tour, Sonny James was given a tremendous birthday surprise as his Apr. 28 show at Hershey, Pa. was interrupted by a number of deejays from a 100-mile radius, who showed up to help Sonny chalk up another notch in the calendar. With them they brought hundreds of cards and greetings from fans and a huge birthday cake, made in the shape of his guitar. The tour, by the way, which blitzed through almost 20 cities in the Northeast and Canada, also featured Roy Acuff & the Smokey Mountain Boys, Nat Stuckey and Jeannie Shepard. . . . Since we missed out on Sonny's Newark performance, and didn't get chance to wish him the best, we'd like to extend a belated, but heartfelt "Happy Birthday!"

Syndicated TV, which has been getting a bigger and bigger taste of country music, will feature two different appearances by Buck Owens in the near future. On May 11 Buck will tape the Mike Douglas show for airing at a future date, and on May 26 he will do a guest shot on the Joey Bishop package.

NATIONAL HIT!  
**KITTY WELLS**  
sings  
**"LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND"**  
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GOLD STAR RECORDS HAS A HIT!  
**"I'VE GOT A BEAD ON YOU BABY"**  
THE FIVE WILLIAMSON BROS.  
(GS 00200)