



C&W Academy Announces Final Awards Nominees

LOS ANGELES—The Academy of Country & Western Music has announced the final nominees for the awards which will be given out at its third annual awards show to be held March 4 at the Century Plaza Hotel here in Los Angeles. Merle

Haggard and Glen Campbell lead the list of nominees, with nine and six nominations respectively. Final ballots were sent to the Academy's members last week.

Categories and those nominated are:

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST

- Lynn Anderson
- Bonnie Guitar
- Bonnie Owens
- Lucille Starr
- Cathy Taylor

TOP MALE VOCALIST

- Glen Campbell
- Merle Haggard
- Dean Martin
- Billy Mize
- Buck Owens
- Wynn Stewart

TOP VOCAL GROUP

- Dillards
- Jack Hallaran Singers
- New Christy Minstrels
- Sons of Pioneers
- Cliffie Stone Singers

TOP DUET

- Canadian Sweethearts
- Gosdin Bros.
- Merle Haggard/Bonnie Owens
- Lee Hazlewood/Nancy Sinatra
- Joe & Rose Lee Maphis
- Johnny & Jonie Mosby

MOST PROMISING FEMALE VOCALIST

- Bobbie Gentry
- Faye Hardin
- Sandy Knox
- Sharon Leighton
- Beth Moore

MOST PROMISING MALE VOCALIST

- Cliff Crofford
- Glenn Garrison
- Tom Tall
- Robert Mitchum
- Jerry Inman

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Country On Stage

WANDA JACKSON

NEW YORK—When Wanda Jackson suggested "Let's Have A Party" at her Nashville Room opening in New York, her backup group, the Party Timers, were in full accord, as were we in the audience. And so, we had a party.

The festivities got underway with the Party Timers kicking off the bill and displaying some fine, tight musicianship. The foursome, Mike Layne (rhythm guitar), Tex Wilburn (lead guitar), Mike Post (drums) and Luke Magoirk provided an excellent sampling of vocal work and flat-out picking, with favorites such as "Gentle On My Mind" and "Yakety Axe" among their standout offerings.

Things moved into high gear with the entrance of Wanda Jackson, a little lady whose physical attraction is sometimes upsetting (it certainly can distract the listener from his listening). But Wanda's warbling is not to be denied. She's sharp and in full control all the way. The entire act is a tightly-knit, well-organized affair with a little something for everybody. Naturally, the better part of Miss Jackson's performance is

allocated to her hit records, which date back to her very first, "Let's Have A Party," and to her most recent Capitol outing, "By The Time You Got To Phoenix."

In addition to her own vocalizing, Wanda also brings in the Party Timers for some group harmony. Of course, with the Party Timers helping out, group harmony seems more like group therapy. The boys cut up, providing some good fun with "May The Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" and also a cute put-on with "Indian Love Call."

There were times during the evening when it was fortunate that our gal was decked out in eye-popping orange, for, when her backup quartet (including 6-foot-6 Mike Lane) had occasion to stampede forward, the tiny songstress was almost completely obliterated. On more than one occasion, Wanda was nothing more than a rumor, visually.

The evening was fun, just as a party should be. And, as we stated before, Wanda was not only a treat for sore ears, but for sore eyes as well.

Two Firsts

WICP-Philadelphia's John Mazer (center) was the first country deejay in the country to play Henson Cargill's Monument single, "Skip A Rope," and the first to make it No. 1. "Skip A Rope" subsequently went to No. 1 on the national C&W charts. In honor of Mazer's double feat Monument's national C&W promo director, Tex Davis (right) gave him the award shown here being displayed at Cash Box's offices while WICP's general manager beamed with pride.



Starday Joins With Jack Daniels In 'Sip 'n Sell' Stereo Sweepstakes

MADISON, Tenn.—Country Music and Jack Daniels whiskey—two of Tennessee's most famous products—are the featured elements of Starday Records' "Sip 'n Sell" Stereo Sweepstakes which the label launched last week.

Using a sales theme "Starday—Your Stereo Country Music Hot Line" to emphasize the availability of Starday stereo album product, Col. Jim Wilson, Starday vice president of marketing has announced the release of eight new Starday and six new Nashville Economy albums plus first-time stereo obtainability of 30 key catalog numbers.

In cooperation with Jack Daniels Distillery of Lynchburg, Tennessee, a special distributor "Sip 'n Sell" Stereo Sweepstakes, February 19th through March 30th, is underway. The Starday distributor who surpasses his sales quota by the biggest percentage during the contest period will be awarded a case of Jack Daniels Black Label Sippin' Whiskey, and a specially designed and engraved mahogany desk case. Other Jack Daniels' prizes are being awarded to runner up winners.

As a promo gimmick, all distributors and promo personnel have received miniature red "Hot Line" telephones, along with a preview "sippin kit" complete with a corn cob pipe, a pouch of Starday's blend country creme tobacco, grown on Starday's Five Coves Farm, and all the fixin's for "rollin' your own."

New Albums

New Starday albums, both mono and stereo, include "Tell Maude I Slipped" by Red Sovine; George Morgan's "Barbara"; "Drink Up and Go Home" with Johnny Bond; "All

Day Singing and Dinner on the Ground" by the Lewis Family; "The Guitars of Arthur 'Guitar Boogie' Smith"; "Steal Away," by George Morgan; "My Lord Keeps a Record," by Carl Story; and a two-record set, "Modern Country Hits of Today."

New Nashville Economy albums in compatible stereo are "Truck Stop" featuring George Morgan, the Willis Brothers, and Red Sovine; "Y'al Come-Satisfied Mind," the Willis Brothers; "Anytime" by Red Sovine; "Three Sheets in the Wind" by Johnny Bond; "Five Queens of Country Music," featuring Jan Howard, Patsy Cline, Melba Montgomery, Dottie West and Margie Singleton; and "Steel Guitar Hall of Fame."

A mailer showing new album issues along with order forms and listings of "now available" stereo product has been sent to over 7,000 record retail outlets across the country.

Starday president Don Pierce commented, "We are pleased to now have available in stereo over 75 Starday 'Cream' albums to fulfill the increasing demands of Starday customers. However, we will continue to release all product in both mono and stereo to meet the needs of those who are still in the mono business."

He went on to say that Starday in 1968 will be concentrating hard on the growing "modern Countryopolitan Nashville Sound," and that the firm will announce new artist and writer signings soon.

To implement the plan with full impact, all the firm's executives are "hitting the road to tell and sell." Wilson heads into the east, Charlie Dick goes west, and Hal Neely will cover the south.

Bobo Exits Boone

NASHVILLE—On Friday, February 16, Bobby Bobo left his position as vice president and general manager of Boone Records, and on February 19, he announced that his decision to leave had been made because of "differences of opinion with the owners of the company on the operation and promotion and development of its product."

Bobo said that he will stay in Nashville and continue his career in the record industry.

Bobo founded Boone five years ago, and the label has since made a name for itself in the C&W field. Last August, the company was purchased outright by the J. Hal Smith Organization and moved from Union, Kentucky, to Nashville. At that time, Bobo was named vice president and general manager.

At the Midem Conference in Cannes, France, Jan. 21-27, Bobo nego-

tiated distribution contracts for Boone Records in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, all Scandinavian and Benelux countries, plus Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

Recent Boone hits include "Walking On New Grass," "Happy Tracks" and "Pretty Girl, Pretty Clothes, Pretty Sad," all by Kenny Price. Price's latest single, "My Goal For Today," is currently seeing chart action. Tex Williams' "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke '68" is also on the charts. Past William chart titles include "Bottom Of A Mountain," "Big Tennessee," and "Too Many Tigers."

Another Boone/Bobo product was the 1967 Buddy Starcher hit "History Repeats Itself," which made No. 1 on the country charts and also did quite well in the pop market.

Other artists now on the label include Mack Vickery, Linda Flanagan, Glen Canyon and Karen Wheeler.