



Epic's star songstress, Tammy Wynette, is being honored by her hometown, Red Bay, Alabama. Red Bay is naming a new city park after the lark. Tammy starred in a benefit performance (the proceeds from which will go for improvements in the park held in the Red Bay High School Gym on August 15. The show was co-sponsored by Radio Station WRNG.

Charlie Pride, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Smith, Charlie Walker and Waylon Jennings will be the stars of the Labor Day weekend show at the Sam Houston Coliseum, in Houston, Texas. . . . Troy Martin, vice president of Silver Star Music, has signed Danny Marcus to a contract and placed him on Musicor Records. . . . Chester, Virginia's WIKI (just outside of Richmond) is switching from a Top 40 format to a country-politan format on September 2. WIKI is making the switch because listener surveys, personal interviews and response to the station's present two and one-half hours daily country programming have indicated an overwhelming preference for C&W music. Mike Hight, a regular performer on WWVA-Wheeling, West Virginia's Country Jamboree and a former manager of stations in North Carolina, has been hired to take charge of programming. WIKI requests that tapes and records for use by the station be sent to: WIKI, 10600 Jefferson Davis Highway, Richmond, Virginia 23234. Full time FM is also being added to the station's facilities, and country music, along with gospel and religious music, will be programmed.

Roy Clark, the Stonemans and Dean Richards and the Midwestern Hayride did a live telecast from the grandstand of the Ohio State Fair on August 24,

6:30-7:30 P.M., and will do another on August 31. Following the August 31 telecast, the Midwestern Hayride and the Stoneman's will do a stage show at the Fair from 9:00-10:30 P.M. The Hayride's cast of 28 singers, musicians and dancers is appearing at the Fair for the third consecutive year. . . . WMAD-Madison, Wisconsin's program director, Johnny Howard took four chartered buses and 180 people to Nashville the weekend of August 10. Highlight of the visit was the Saturday night Grand Ol' Opry show. A good time was had by all the folks from Madison, who were especially impressed by Music City's southern hospitality.

TV Cinema Sales, film distribution company based in Beverly Hills, has acquired world television distribution rights to the 78 half-hour color taped editions of the "Buck Owens TV Ranch Show," which stars Buck Owens and His Buckaroos. The show will go into distribution immediately for telecast during the 1968-69 season. Among markets to which the show has already been sold are WKY-Oklahoma City, KHTV-Houston, WTOP-Washington, WSIX-Nashville, KPHO-Phoenix, KTVT-Ft. Worth, WEMP-Bangor and WHEN-Syracuse.

Redwood City, California's Canary Record Co., is sponsoring, in association with Western News, an eleven state C&W talent search. Eleven semi-regional winners from Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico will be chosen and brought to San Francisco to compete in the finals. The winner will receive a Canary recording contract to record in Nashville to the accompani-

ment of the Nashville Sounds and Strings. Additional prizes will be presented to the winners and runners up. Preliminary plans include the staging of the presentations at a sight to be selected by the Country and Western Music Promoter's Organization of Northern California. Negotiations are currently underway for TV coverage of the final contest festivities, coverage which will include video taping of the event for showing through the eleven states involved in the contest. Residents of these states desiring to compete in the contest are invited to enter via subscription to Western News, P.O. Box 1825, Richmond, California 94802. Contest rules will be forwarded by return mail. Further information concerning attendance of the final contest festivities may be gotten by writing to the Country and Western

Music Promoter's Organization, P.O. Box 3041, San Jose, California 95116.

Melvin Ednsley has formed his own label, Melark. The 34-year-old singer and writer will record "Half As Blue" b/w "Almost Recording" as the first Melark single. Ednsley, who wrote Guy Mitchell's million-seller, "Singin' The Blues" and "I Like Your Kind Of Love," a hit for Andy Williams, formerly recorded for RCA and MGM. His new label will be distributed by Great Records of Nashville.

Leroy Van Dyke is headlining the bill at the Missouri State Fair in Saldalia, Missouri for the third consecutive year. . . . Barry Sweeney, who handles a record review column in Canada, would be happy to receive records of all kinds. He has a new mailing address: 180 Sunfield Road, Downsview, Ontario, Canada.



### Price-less

Although Ray Price is not bodily included in the picture, it was the soulful sounds of the Columbia artist and his 20 piece orchestra, performing at the ranch of Texas Governor John Connally, which lightened the burden of President Lyndon B. Johnson (c.), huddled with (l. to r.) Presidential aid Paul Glenn; talent broker Billy Deaton; Ray's agent, Billy Gray; and Bill Sinkin of Hemisfair.

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