



Haggard Headlines CMA NARM Luncheon

HOLLYWOOD — Merle Haggard will be the solo entertainer at a special luncheon to be given by the Country Music Association at the National Association of Record Merchandisers convention at the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, on Monday, March 1.

Haggard, winner of CMA's "Entertainer of the Year" and four other awards in 1970, was invited to headline the CMA's first major presentation at an annual NARM convention, whose 1500 participants represent 80 of the record merchandisers in the country, 90% of bulk record sales. Supplementing Haggard's star power will be a half-hour film presentation demonstrating how and why country music is the most popular type of music today.

With thousands of dollars committed to the C&W luncheon, CMA's Bill Williams, a past CMA president, who co-chairs the program committee with Bill Farr, noted that past efforts combining the star sound and sound statistics of the burgeoning country music market have resulted in average country music sales rises of 20%.

In the most ambitious CMA courtship of assembled record distributors, Williams said he hopes to show that country music is exploding into a popularity it has never had before and that it will eventually account for the biggest share of the record market.

Membership of the committee co-

Del Reeves Day Success For UA

"Del Reeves Day", proclaimed on December 22nd for their country singing star by United Artists Records, turned out to be a huge success.

For six straight hours Del talked to D.J.'s and programmers from nearly one hundred radio stations throughout the nation who called to share Christmas cheer with him. Said Reeves at the conclusion of the grueling day, "Since the true meaning of Christmas deals with love of our fellow man, and since the world has been so good to me and my family this year, I just gotta' say I hope this holiday is as warm and wonderful for you and yours as it is for me and mine".

During the course of Del's tribute to "Country America", he was called upon to perform some unusual chores on the air with the help of the beeper telephone. Among them were helping to promote a blood donor drive and toys for tots, pleas for Christmas food for the needy, lost dog announcements, and even sending a holiday greeting from a listener in one city to a loved one tuned in to another station two thousand miles away.

The current single by Del Reeves on the United Artists label is "Bar Room Talk", composed by Jerry Chestnut.

chaired by Williams and Farr, includes Jack Goldbart, Frank Jones, Bill Hudson, Hubert Long, Wade Pepper, Jim Schwartz, Hutch Carlock, Jack Loetz and Janet Gavin.

Anderson, Pride Win Annual KBBQ Honors

BURBANK—KBBQ Radio in Burbank has announced the winners of the fourth annual KBBQ country music awards. For the second consecutive year, Charley Pride has won the "Male Vocalist Of The Year" award, while "Best Female Vocalist" honors went to Lynn Anderson, who broke a three year win streak for Tammy Wynette. "Best Song Of The Year" award went to "For The Goodtimes," written by Kris Kristofferson and performed by Ray Price.

The KBBQ country music awards were determined by KBBQ listeners in the Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley areas who phoned in their votes. "Song Of The Year" honors went to "For The Goodtimes," by Ray Price; "Too Lonely, Too Long," Mel Tillis; "Sunday Morning Coming Down," Johnny Cash; "Snowbird," Anne Murray; and "The Taker," by Waylon Jennings. Of the five songs chosen, three were written by Kris Kristofferson.

Charley Pride, Ray Price, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, and Marty Robbins were the finalists in the "Male Vocalist Of The Year" category, while Lynn Anderson, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, and Connie Smith won female vocalist honors.

Cash Show Sets Jan. Specials

NASHVILLE — A History of Country Music will be the theme of the Johnny Cash Shows to be aired on ABC-TV Channel 8. January 20 and 27. Approximately 40 of country music's top artists will appear on the two-part documentary of country music, tracing events and progress from the early days to the giant industry it is today. Among those guesting on the shows will be Chet Atkins, Sonny James, Merle Haggard, Homer and Jethro, Conway Twitty, Lynn Anderson, Bill Monroe, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Tex Ritter,

Marty Robbins, Buck Owens, Eddy Arnold, Carl Perkins, Mother, Maybelle and the Carter Family, The Statler Brothers, Kitty Wells, Webb Pierce, Minnie Pearl, Roy Orbison, Gordon Lightfoot, plus great Japanese country artist, Takahiro Saito.

Set on the same format as the highly successful Draft Shows, film clips from WSM's Grand Ole Opry will also be incorporated in the historical story, showing deceased great masters of the "Nashville Sound," Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, Jimmy Rodgers, Patsy Klein, Lou Childre, and others.

According to Reba Hancock, sister of Johnny Cash and manager of the Cash offices in Hendersonville, Tennessee, "The show has been taped so that every person can enjoy it."



Country Roundup

Cecil Null says, "If your neighbor looks you straight in the eye and strikes you on the right cheek, you've got a left-handed neighbor . . . After several bouts with hospitals and illness, Peggy Little, back in action and more vivacious than ever, left on an extended tour of Hawaii . . . Webb Pierce, Decca superstar, slated for a January 27 appearance on Johnny Cash's Country Music Spectacular via ABC-TV. This is Webb's first appearance on the Cash TV'er. Selections performed by Pierce include his reminiscent "I Ain't Never," "Wondering," and his newest Decca release, "Tell Him That You Love Him."

Charlie Louvin, skedded for a January appearance in chilly Anchorage, Alaska. It's Charlie's first visit to our newest state. "Sittin' Bull" is title of Charlie's current Capitol release . . . Dot artist Jack Barlow recently completed a series of radio commercials for a leading Southern grocery chain. Jack's current Dot release is "Dayton, Ohio" . . . Rusty "KoKo the Clown" Adams begins a week-long personal appearance tour of Bermuda. Adams, a universally popular vocalist, also scores big as a dynamic vocalist . . . Several years ago Hank Williams, Jr. and company performed a commemorative show on New Year's Day in memory of his late father who passed away January 1, 1953. Each year the demand for this memorial show grows in overwhelming proportions. This year the Hank Williams, Jr. Memorial Show became a 10-day tour, spanning from Greensboro, North Carolina to Tampa, Florida.

Tommy Cash and The Tomcats set for an upcoming early April tour of London, England. Tommy's current Epic hit is "The Tears on Lincoln's Face" . . . Billy Walker and Jack Barlow taped appearances on Hugh X. Lewis' Country Club syndicated TV-er recently . . . The Duke of Paducah, veteran comic-picker, recently taped an appearance on Porter

Wagoner's syndicated TV show . . . Mercury artist Dave Dudley scheduled for a late-January appearance on the Midwestern Hayride TV show. Dave's new single is "Listen, Betty (I'm Singing Your Song)." Looks like another big song for Dave.

Popular recording artist-songwriter, Ray "Patches" Griff, reports January to be a jumping month for his Shades of Blue Enterprises. According to Ray, the RCA organization plans to release a new Griff-authorized single performed by the popular duet, Dolly Parton and Porter Wagoner. For Ray it's the first time Porter and Dolly have released a single penned by Griff. Incidentally, Ray and his Rays of Sunshine have two new singles released this month on the Royal American label. The first one, an instrumental entitled "Ray's Bar and Grill," features Griff at the piano, backed by his group, the Rays of Sunshine. The second release, a vocal duo for the latter part of January, places Griff in a desirably pleasant situation: He's one of the few artists to follow up a hit like "Patches" with not one, but two new releases in the same month.

Pat Daisy is the "Flowering" new writer from Alabama who just signed an exclusive pact with Green Grass Music and RCA Records. Single expected shortly . . . Curly Putman's forthcoming RCA single, which was produced by Chet Atkins and penned by Putman, is titled "Danny The DJ" . . . Knoxville's Jerry Brock made such a success on his initial appearance at the world-famous WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling January 2, that there is considerable talk of monthly guest shots for him during 1971 . . . One of the newest businesses in Music City is Score Leadsheets, operated by Nashville newcomer David Owens (brother of Earl Owens) who is also an accomplished bass player . . . Mega's promo chief, Jerry Seabolt and Paramount/-Dot's girl Friday, Regenia Roberson,

celebrated the New Year with wedding bells . . . Evie and Wally Cochran, RCA exec, celebrated Wally's birthday December 30 by christening Sara Jane, their four-month-old daughter. Golfing personality Frank Rogers and wife Sara are Godparents.

WHOO staff members were thrice honored recently by the Florida Country Music Award Foundation. Program director Clay Daniels received a certificate of award for programming the best in good music Al Dunaway was cited as the most popular disk jockey, and Dorothy Kuhlman received the award of top promoter on the distaff side.

Demetriss Tapp completed an album for Nasco label at Woodland Studios last week with Bob Tubert producing . . . The "Louisiana Man," Doug Kershaw has started work on a new album for Warner Brothers with Tree exec Buddy Killen wearing his independent producer's hat . . . The Blackwood Brothers Quartet are scheduled for twenty-one shows during January, each show being in a different city from Tennessee to California, including Hawaii . . . The fire at the DBM studio and office in Music City was not set by new tenant, Joe Gibson, president of Prize Records, even tho his first record "Fire and Rain" was released that day . . . Dot recording artists, the identical LeGarde Twins, plane from the Houston-Post Travel Show to Seattle, Washington for a weekend's engagement at Seattle's elegant downtown Moose Club January 29-30 . . . Otis Williams and the Midnight Cowboys have a new LP on Stop Records.

"The Wonderful World of Gospel Music" will be heard on Nashville's new full-time gospel station WWGM. Owned by the Crawford Broadcasting Company, the 10,000 watt station is beamed to a 1,200,000 listening audience . . . Cotton Harp, long time musician and well known in Country

Music will be handling several departments including publishing for Little Richie Johnson in Belen, New Mexico . . . Acting as a special messenger for the Country Music Association, Loretta Lynn recently presented an award to David Frost in appreciation for his support of country music talent on television. Loretta was the first country act to appear on the Frost show.

The appointment of Glenn Keener as producer for Opryland Records has been announced by E. W. "Bud" Wendell, manager of the WSM owned record company. In addition to his production duties for the new label, Keener will serve as manager of the WSM publishing companies with headquarters in the Capitol Building in Nashville . . . The Killer, Jerry Lee Lewis, reportedly fed up with the pressures brought about by overwork, too much drinking, and topped off with divorce proceedings from his wife, Myra, has reformed to go back to his church and a new audience conception. From working twenty straight show dates in a row, according to Lewis' manager, Ray Brown, he will now work only weekends, confining his activities to concerts, fairs, coliseums, and television, with no more night club appearances planned.

Hee Haw star Roy Clark is back in the saddle again after his recent hospital bout with heart tests and heads list of four artists scheduled for recording sessions at Dot Records this month. Clark will be produced by Joe Allison. Others include Dale Ward, produced by Bobby Boyd, and Tommy Overstreet, produced by Ricci Mareno . . . Jack Key, professional manager, Newkeys Music, recently signed Gary Copley to an exclusive writers contract. Gary hails from Columbus, Ohio. He penned "Outside Your Window" soon to be released by the Morris Brothers.