

Mac Davis Entertainer Of Year; Haggard, Lynn Top Vocalists At Academy Of Country Music Awards

HOLLYWOOD — Mac Davis walked away with the Entertainer of the Year Award and Merle Haggard and Loretta Lynn were named Male and Female Vocalist of the Year respectively by the Academy of Country Music at its Tenth Annual Awards Show taped Thursday evening (27) at the Aquarius Theater here. The Country music awards show, produced by Gene Weed and Coffee Walker and directed by Alan Angus, will be televised nationally via ABC's Wide World Special on Wednesday, March 5.

The Awards were presented in two parts — the first on TV and the rest after the Awards Show Banquet held at the Hollywood Paladium immediately following the taping — due not only to the large number of categories included in the program but also because of the large number of country artists and celebrities performing or participating.

Roger Miller was Master of Ceremonies for the televised portion of the Awards program which included Male and Female Vocalist of the Year, Top Vocal Group, Most Promising Male and Female Vocalist, Single, Album and Song of the Year, and Entertainer of the Year.

Performing on the TV special were: Loretta Lynn singing "You Ain't Woman Enough" and "Secret Love"; Johnny Rodriguez singing "I Just Can't Get Her Out of My Mind"; Donna Fargo singing "You Can't Be a Beacon" and "U.S. of A."; Mickey Gilley with "Room Full of Roses/I Overlooked An Orchid"; LaCosta and her version of "Get On My Love Train." Miller sang "I Love a Rodeo" and "Our Love" and Marty Robbins performed a medley of the five songs nominated in the song of the year category: "Back Home Again," "Country Bumpkin," "I Can Help," "One Day at a Time," and "Things Aren't Funny Anymore."

Award presenters on the show included Glen Campbell, Roy Clark, Conway Twitty, Claude Akins, Del Reeves, Cal Smith, Pee Wee King, Molly Bee, Linda Day George, Chris George, Diana Trask, Adrienne Barbeau, Gary Burghoff, Susan Howard, Conny Van Dyke, Mike Evans and Joyce Bullifant.

Charley Pride Packs 'Em In On U.K. Tour

NEW YORK — Country music is alive and well in the United Kingdom if a recent Charley Pride tour is any indication. Pride just concluded an eight city tour of the British Isles that took him to London, Dublin, Ipswich, Glasgow, Birmingham, Southport and Yorkshire during which he played to an SRO audience at every show doing two shows a night in every city.

Frank Mancini, v.p. of artist relations at RCA, who travelled with Pride during the tour said people mobbed Pride wherever he went and it was necessary to sneak in and out of back doors to hotels and theatres to prevent Pride from being hurt.

"There is a definite country music cult in the U.K.," said Mancini, talking about the many little clubs in the different cities that featured British or Irish artists singing American country hits and sounding just like the American artists

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Billy Strange conducted the orchestra.

Popular Melodyland recording artist, Jerry Naylor, handled the emcee chores at the Paladium Banquet Show here, in addition to completing the balloted awards presentations, two special awards presented by the Academy executive board, were given. The Jim Reeves Memorial Award was presented to Merv Griffin for his contributions during 1974 in boosting Country music through his TV show; and Pioneer Tribute Awards were given to Merle Travis, Johnny Bond and Tennessee Ernie Ford for their efforts through the years in supporting Country music.

The complete list of winners are: Male Vocalist of the Year, Merle Haggard; Female Vocalist of the Year, Loretta Lynn; Top Vocal Group, Conway Twitty/Loretta Lynn; Most Promising Male

Vocalist, Mickey Gilley; Most Promising Female Vocalist, Linda Ronstadt; Single Record of the Year, "Country Bumpkin," Cal Smith; Album of the Year, "Back Home Again," John Denver; Song of the Year, "Country Bumpkin," Cal Smith; Entertainer of the Year, Mac Davis; Band of the Year (non-touring), The Strangers; Band of the Year (touring), Palomino Riders; Country Music Night Club of the Year, Palomino; Radio Personality of the Year, Larry Scott of KLAC; Radio Station of the Year, KLAC. The Academy All Star Band of the Year is comprised of Billy Graham, bass; Jerry Wiggins, drums; Billy Armstrong, fiddle; Al Bruno, lead guitar; Floyd Cramer, piano; J. D. Mannes, steel guitar. Jim Reeves Memorial Award, Merv Griffin; Pioneer Tribute, Merle Travis, Johnny Bond and Tennessee Ernie Ford.



SEEING STARS — Highlighting "Roy Clark Month" (Feb.), Clark was presented with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame (12). Pictured at the ceremonial installation of the star are (from left) William Hertz, chairman of the Walk of Fame committee, Clark and his friend Ed McMahon.

Tom T. Leads Golf Benefit

NASHVILLE — Mercury/Phonogram Records artist Tom T. Hall is leading a major fund-raising effort to benefit a unique children's home project in East Tennessee.

Hall will not only participate but is sponsoring the organization of a celebrity golf tournament and evening concert, both of which will be major sources of operating revenue for the Bethel Bible School of Hixon, near Chattanooga.

The golf tournament, named the "Tom T. Hall — Bethel Celebrity Golf Tournament," will be Fri. and Sat., May 23 and 24. A benefit concert will be given on Frid. evening.

The school is a home for deprived children from especially adverse environments: one or both parents of children applying for residence must be in prison, Hall stated. "While the institution is fully recognized as a non-profit organization supported by tax-deductible contributions, it receives no city, state, or federal funds. And there have been times when it's had all it could do just to meet weekly operating expenses, much less set anything aside for a much-needed expansion program.

"So this year a bunch of us from Nashville are joining the community leaders of Chattanooga in a serious attempt to help the children," he added.

"Tom wanted to work with us for last year's tournament," said tournament vice-chairman Sam Woolwine, sports writer for the Chattanooga News-Free Press. "But his prior commitments prevented him from doing so. We therefore repeated our program of the year before and obtained the participation of sports celebrities and other prominent civic personalities.

Hall summarized his hopes for this year's project "The Bethel Bible School has one of the most unique and challenging programs I have yet to encounter in giving the children of incarcerated parents a fresh start. I only hope that our golf tournament and efforts will help in some way. We intend to have fun and share it with everybody — including the children."

Woolwine and Hall will provide further information shortly. More detailed preliminary data, however, may be obtained by contacting Sam Woolwine or Bob Neal, Hall's manager in Nashville.

Woolwine is coordinating developments related to the golf tournament and sports personalities.

COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE WEEK Diana Trask



From "Down Under" to On Top — Red-haired Diana Trask was born "down under" — in Australia — where she studied music, had her own syndicated TV show, and won \$2,000 as the most promising act of the year on an Australian TV talent contest. That led to more television exposure and appearances on Australian's Hit Parade and Tonight Show.

At 17 Diana was an Australian celebrity, and when U.S. shows toured her country and New Zealand, Diana was often the opening act. She opened shows for people such as Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr., and for the first time got to know Americans who encouraged her to come to the States. Her first American tour started in smaller clubs but she was soon working the biggest ones such as the Blue Angel in New York, Harrah's in Nevada, The Tideland in Texas and the Fountainbleau in Miami.

Marriage and a family caused Diana to take a short hiatus back home in Australia but it wasn't long before she was back in America where she was in great demand for appearances on national TV shows.

A contract with Dot Records has proven to be a good "marriage" starting with "I Fall To Pieces" down through "Lock Stock, and Teardrop," "The Chokin' Kind," "Say When," "It's A Man's World," "When I Get My Hands On You" and "Lean It All On Me." Several albums have been released by ABC-Dot Records, including the "Diana Trask's Greatest Hits" LP, and her current single, "Oh Boy," is climbing to the top. Diana is produced by Dot president, Jim Foglesong. She has become a familiar

face on major network and syndicated TV shows including "Dinah," "The Tonight Show," "Merv Griffin," ABC's "In Concert," and "Hee Haw," with several other appearances that include "Jack Paar Tonight," "Music Country U.S.A.," "The Ian Tyson Show" on Canadian TV as well as a nationally syndicated special from Las Vegas titled, "How The West Was Lost."

Her first dramatic role came on ABC-TV's "Love American Style" and most recently she was tapped to sing the title song for the ABC Movie Of The Week, "Anything Goes." Diana will also be heard on Nestea's TV commercials.

Diana has appeared at both the Frontier and Sands Hotels in Las Vegas co-headlining with Roy Clark, Danny Thomas and Milton Berle. Concert dates on Diana's schedule include the Fairmont Hotels in both Dallas and Atlanta, Harrah's at Lake Tahoe and Reno, and a one-week "Special" in Hawaii.

She's also a popular talent along the fair circuit and all together plays over 250 dates a year.

Additionally, Diana has won the affection of the people of Great Britain, making tour after tour throughout the British Isles. Her popularity there has led to guest star appearances on BBC-TV specials and she will again entertain in London April 10-16 with co-star Glen Campbell.

Her success is best summed up from Diana's own belief that "Country music is the living history of the average American man, and therefore here to stay."

juanita jones