

top country LP's

1	<b>ROCK 'N' COUNTRY</b> Freddie Fender (ABC/Dot DOSD 2050)	2	26	<b>PRISONER IN DISGUISE</b> Linda Ronstadt (Asylum 7E 1045)	26
2	<b>WHEN THE TINGLE BECOMES A CHILL</b> Loretta Lynn (MCA 2179)	3	27	<b>THE SWEETEST THING</b> Dottie (RCA APL 1-1358)	30
3	<b>THE OUTLAWS</b> Waylon Jennings/Willie Nelson/ Jessi Colter/Tompa Glaser (RCA APL 1-1321)	1	28	<b>TEXAS COUNTRY</b> Various Artists (U.A. LA 574 H2)	31
4	<b>THE WHITE KNIGHT</b> Cledus Maggard & The Citizen's Band (Mercury SRM 1-1072)	7	29	<b>RAY GRIFF</b> (Capitol ST 11486)	24
5	<b>SOMETIMES</b> Bill Anderson & Mary Lou Turner (MCA 2182)	6	30	<b>COUNTRY WILLIE</b> Willie Nelson (United Artists LA 510-G)	25
6	<b>IT'S ALL IN THE MOVIES</b> Merle Haggard (Capitol ST 11483)	9	31	<b>WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ME NOW</b> Willie Nelson (RCA APL 1-1234)	29
7	<b>EASY AS PIE</b> Billy Crash Craddock (ABC/Dot DOSD 2040)	8	32	<b>PEOPLE PUT TO MUSIC</b> Freddie Hart & The Heartbeats (Capitol ST 11504)	46
8	<b>ELITE HOTEL</b> Emmylou Harris (Reprise MS 2236)	5	33	<b>THE HAPPINESS OF HAVING YOU</b> Charley Pride (RCA APL 1-1241)	28
9	<b>NARVEL THE MARVEL</b> Narvel Felts (ABC/Dot DOSD 2033)	12	34	<b>ALL THE KING'S HORSES</b> Lynn Anderson (Columbia KC 34089)	36
10	<b>THE GREAT TOMPALL AND HIS OUTLAW BAND</b> (MGM M3G-5014)	11	35	<b>MACKINTOSH &amp; T.J.</b> Waylon Jennings (RCA APL 1-1520)	43
11	<b>LOVIN' AND LEARNIN'</b> Tanya Tucker (MCA 2167)	4	36	<b>THE SHEIK OF CHICAGO</b> Joe Stampley (Epic KE 34036)	38
12	<b>THE SOUND IN YOUR MIND</b> Willie Nelson (Lone Star/ Columbia KC 34092)	19	37	<b>RONNIE MILSAP/NIGHT THINGS</b> (RCA APL 1-1223)	35
13	<b>200 YEARS OF COUNTRY MUSIC</b> Sonny James (Columbia KC 34035)	10	38	<b>SONGS WE FELL IN LOVE TO</b> Connie Smith (Columbia X598)	44
14	<b>CHESTER AND LESTER</b> Chet Atkins & Les Paul (RCA APL 1-1167)	17	39	<b>ARE YOU READY FOR FREDDY</b> Freddie Fender (ABC/Dot DOSD 2044)	33
15	<b>COME ON OVER</b> Olivia Newton-John (MCA 2186)	22	40	<b>INDEPENDENCE</b> Nat Stuckey (MCA 2184)	45
16	<b>JESSI</b> Jessi Colter (Capitol ST 11477)	14	41	<b>HANK WILLIAMS JR. &amp; FRIENDS</b> (MGM M3G 5009)	41
17	<b>TWITTY</b> Conway Twitty (MCA 2176)	15	42	<b>BLACKBIRD</b> Stoney Edwards (Capitol ST 11499)	42
18	<b>OVERNIGHT SENSATION</b> Mickey Gilley (Playboy PB 408)	16	43	<b>REDHEADED STRANGER</b> Willie Nelson (Columbia PC 33482)	37
19	<b>LONGHAIRD REDNECK</b> David Allan Coe (Columbia KC 33916)	27	44	<b>FLOYD CRAMER COUNTRY</b> (RCA APL 1-1541)	48
20	<b>JASON'S FARM</b> Cai Smith (MCA 2172)	13	45	<b>GILLEY'S GREATEST HITS</b> Mickey Gilley (Playboy PB 409)	—
21	<b>STEPPIN' OUT</b> Gary Stewart (RCA APL 1-1225)	18	46	<b>THE WORLD OF CHARLIE RICH</b> (RCA APL 1-1242)	32
22	<b>BLACK BEAR ROAD</b> C.W. McCall (MGM 5008)	21	47	<b>LARRY GATLIN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS</b> (Monument KZ 34042)	—
23	<b>THE BLIND MAN IN THE BLEACHERS</b> Kenny Starr (MCA 2177)	20	48	<b>FASTER HORSES</b> Tom T. Hall (Mercury SRM 1-1076)	—
24	<b>'TIL I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN</b> Tammy Wynette (Epic KE 34075)	39	49	<b>I LOVE YOU BECAUSE</b> Jim Reeves (RCA APL 1-1224A)	34
25	<b>LOVE PUT A SONG IN MY HEART</b> Johnny Rodriguez (Mercury SRM 1-1057)	23	50	<b>THE GREATEST HITS OF JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ</b> (Mercury SRM 1-1078)	—

country roundup

The newly reactivated **Gene Autry** Republic Records under the management of **Dave Burgess** announced recently the signing of **Kathy Barnes**, former MGM recording artist whose three releases on that label were each national charters, and **Larry Barnes**, her brother. At the same time, Burgess said the repackaging of four Gene Autry albums is complete and that release date is imminent. Also signed to Republic is the group **The Champs** who had the million seller "Tequila" . . . **Jimmy Buffett** took two whacks to break the champagne bottle in christening his new wheels at a recent 'open bus' party in Nashville. Buffett's new 40-ft. Eagle is not, however, a typical bus. Complete with mag wheels, the bus is painted in shades of red, yellow and rust and features hand-painted side murals depicting a ship sailing to sea. Inside, the bus is trimmed in a nautical motif and includes all the usual stuff like stereo systems and TV. Typical of the Buffett sense of humor, the destination signs on the bus front show items like "Loretta Lynn," "Troupe 69," "Heaven or Hell," "Teens For Christ," "Rolling Stoned," "Ozone" and of course "Key West."

**Roy Clark** is going pop! Boston Pops, that is. On May 1-2 Roy will be the guest of **Arthur Fiedler** and the Boston Pops Orchestra for two telecasts, as the two musical greats will team to blend country and symphonic music for a couple of evenings of fine entertainment . . . "**Freddie Fender Banned From New Zealand**" read the headlines across the country this week as the minister of labor refused to grant permission for Freddy to enter that country to complete his concert swing through Australia and New Zealand. It seems that they were upset over Freddy's fifteen-year-old conviction for possession of a small amount of marijuana. The governor of Louisiana even granted Freddy a special pardon in an attempt to get the stalled tour going again, but the New Zealand minister would not budge. While Freddy was away across the ocean playing to his fans in Australia, he was winning another award back home, as the National Association of Record Merchandisers named him the best selling country album artist (male) at its most recent convention in Hollywood, Fla.

**Tanya Tucker's** newest MCA single release "You've Got Me To Hold On To," written by **David Loggins**, has been entered in the Tokyo Music Festival. Tanya will perform her new record on June 27 at the Imperial Theatre in Tokyo, Japan in the international contest. "You've Got Me To Hold On To" is from her latest MCA album "Lovin' And Learnin'" . . . **Sarah Johns** received an unusual birthday gift from her manager's lawyer **Maynard Holt** — 500 pounds of Purina dog chow. Maynard didn't know that Sarah no longer had her English Sheepdog "Biscuits" living with her, but instead now has a small pug. Her manager **Jack D. Johnson** now has an office full of dog food.

**George Hamilton IV** has re-signed with Grand Ole Opry. His first appearance will be on May 8 . . . MCA Records is paying tribute to **Loretta Lynn** during her birthday month of April (14), which coincidentally coincides with the release of her autobiography "Coal Miner's Daughter." She was the first woman in country music to achieve a gold record and now she has two. There are 32 albums that Loretta has recorded for MCA Records, ranging from hymns to love songs, from "Coal Miner's Daughter" to her memorable duet albums with the "high priest of country music" **Conway Twitty**. Loretta's newest MCA single, destined to be a bicentennial classic is "Red, White And Blue" from the album "When The Tingle Becomes A Chill."

RCA'er **Jack Ruth** left for Europe recently to be a part of the **Johnny Cash** show performances in Stockholm where the troupe played a week . . . **Kenny Price** is recovering from major abdominal surgery. The singer spent a week and a half in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Covington, Kentucky before returning home to fully recover . . . **Frank Jones**, vice president and general manager c&w division of Capitol Records, announced recently that he had accepted with regret the resignation of **Audie Ashworth**, a&r administrator, Nashville office, effective April 1. Ashworth will enter into management and other facets of the entertainment industry . . . **Johnny Russell's** road show now includes the newly signed RCA group **The Heckles** . . . **Leroy Van Dyke** started a Canadian tour April 2, then to Duluth, Minnesota for four days . . . **Ronnie Milsap** has moved into new offices on Music Row. His new address is 41 Music Square East, Nashville, Tenn. 37203 . . . **Minnie Pearl** is set to guest **The Tonight Show** and then the **Donny & Marie** show to be aired this month . . . **Tommy Overstreet** will make his fourth European tour April 29-May 23.

**Jim Ed Brown** was honored by RCA Records recently. The occasion was the 20th anniversary of the RCA/Jim Ed partnership. Jim signed with the label in 1956 along with his two sisters, and **The Browns** had many hits as a group in the following years. After his sisters left show business and devoted their time to their private lives, Jim signed as a solo act with the label. At the 20-year surprise party, **Chet Atkins** and **Jerry Bradley** presented Jim Ed with a metronome which was inscribed: "To Jim Ed Brown in commemoration of your 20th anniversary with RCA Records" . . . **Dottie West** was made honorary state senator of the state of Louisiana on her recent trip to New Orleans for the first country show ever to be held at the Royal Orleans Hotel in that bayou city. The country sunshine gal was on hand to help celebrate Coca Cola's 75th anniversary year at the regional meeting for Coke employees in the New Orleans area. Dottie will be working 40 dates for Coke in 1976.

**Robert Allen Jenkins** has signed an exclusive songwriter's contract with Cedarwood Publishing. In addition to being a successful writer with 13 singles released to his credit last year in addition to many album cuts, Bob is also a recording artist with his current MGM release titled "Feelin' Kinda Lonely" . . . **Roy Clark** is taping with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Symphony May 1-2 . . . **Randy Barlow** and wife **Mary Ann** are proud parents of an 8 lb. daughter named **Patricia Joann**. Randy's single on Gazelle's label is titled "Goodnight My Love" . . . **Mel Tillis** was in Los Angeles recently for guestings on "AM Los Angeles" and the "Merv Griffin" show . . . **Jeannie C. Riley** and her band **Red River Symphony** left for Honolulu on April 8 to kickoff a three-day mini-tour of the islands. Jeannie headlined at the Sheraton Waikiki on the 9th and the following evening performed at Honolulu's Conroy Bowl. Closing the trip was an appearance at Kauai on the 11th. Jeannie will be back in Nashville recording the week of April 12 with producer **Shelby Singleton** . . . **Johnny Russell** has just completed visits to WWL New Orleans, WBAP Fort Worth, KVOO Tulsa, WWVA Wheeling, KDKA Pittsburgh, WPLO Atlanta, WBT Charlotte, WAME Charlotte and several other key stations. The visits coincided with the release of "I'm A Trucker" and on several of the stations Johnny gave away cb radios to all night listeners.

**Mike Burger** of WHOO Orlando has just returned from the first meeting of the Federation of International Country Air Personalities and reports **Charlie Douglas** of WWL New Orleans was elected president, **Billy Parker** of KVOO Tulsa vice president, **Grant Turner**, WSM Nashville, chairman of the board and **Mike Burger**, WHOO Orlando, sergeant at arms . . .

juanita jones

Country Singles — Active Extras

- The Biggest Airport In The World**  
Moe Bandy (Columbia)
- Let Me Love You Where It Hurts**  
Jim Ed Brown (RCA)
- Nothin' Takes The Place Of You**  
Asleep At The Wheel (Capitol)
- Since I Met You Boy**  
Jeannie Seely (MCA)
- Under Your Spell Again**  
Barbara Fairchild (Columbia)
- Let The Big Wheels Roll**  
Sarah Johns (RCA)
- Sweet Sorrow**  
Jeanne Pruett (MCA)
- When She's Got Me Where She Wants Me**  
David Allan Coe (Columbia)
- Love Still Makes The World Go Round**  
Stoney Edwards (Capitol)
- High & Wild**  
Earl Conley (GRT)
- Alone Again**  
Billy Walker (RCA)

- Get Ready, Here I Come**  
Don Gibson & Sue Thompson (Hickory)
- Sweet Dreams**  
Troy Seals (Columbia)
- I Love A Beautiful Guy**  
Connie Cato (Capitol)
- Kentucky Moonrunner**  
Cledus Maggard (Mercury)
- Where The Soul Never Dies**  
Oak Ridge Boys (Columbia)
- Colorado Call**  
Shad O'Shea (Private Stock)
- 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover**  
Bob Yarborough (IRDA)
- Twilight Time**  
Carl Mann (ABC/Dot)
- All These Things**  
Joe Stampley (ABC/Dot)
- Jasper**  
Jim Stafford (MGM)
- Have I Told You Lately**  
Carmen Marenco (Capitol)
- Ginny**  
Leon Rausch (Derrick)
- Ain't No Heartbreak**  
Dorsey Burnette (Melodyland)
- Welcome Back**  
John Sebastian (Warner/Reprise)