



COUNTRY & WESTERN

СОПНІВЪ & МЕСЛЕВІ

°September RIDING HIGH on the C&Wagon of hits, Epic's Bobby Vinton bombshelled into the 1½-million sales circle in U-S sales of "Roses Are Red"; England's EMI version clicked off 100,000 sales on release . . . Jimmy Wakely announced plans to re-team with Margaret Whiting for an elpee on his own label, in a try at recapturing the 2-million sales magic of their "Slippin' Around" and "Wedding Bells" dueting of yore . . . Johnny Cash calendar'd an October jaunt to the Far East.

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs blew into the Bradley Recording Studio to tape the main title theme for CBS TV big-money winner "Beverly Hillbillies". "Ballad Of Jed Clampett" theme later became a Columbia hit single for F&S . . . Pee Wee King blew out the candles on an anniversary cake marking 25 years of C&W handleading.

CMA uncorked a TV survey of U-S and Canada showing 172 stations with live or canned C&W shows; 86 with Gospel Music shows . . . Syd Nathan snagged for his King label, a big C&W star who he had discovered years before—Hawkshaw Hawkins.

°October AFTER A decade with talent boss Hubert Long, Capitol Records star Faron Young inked personal management papers with the Shelley Snyder Talent Agency and moved to Mercury Records . . . Pro's-pro Buck Ram, longtime friend of C&W, opened offices in Music City . . . Mercury's Leroy VanDyke, with a worldwide 2-million seller in "Walk On By", joined America's most exclusive C&W cast—The Grand Ole Opry.

°November C&W A&R director Joe Alli-

son bowed out at Liberty Records to concentrate on general professional manager duties with Central Songs, Inc. in Hollywood. Liberty prez Al Bennett thanked Joe for developing labels C&W department.

. . . Opry execs grabbed Capitol Records' red-hot Sonny James as its 53rd star act . . . Claude King's Columbia discing "Wolverton Mountain", penned by Merle Kilgore, finally dropped out of the C&W charts after a 27 week reign including five weeks on the Number One throne. It came heart-breakingly close to the magic million circle . . . just barely missed.

Decca's Bill Anderson was crowned king of the C&W cleffing clan, winning four BMI awards while Cedarwood Publishing and Panper Music tied with seven awards each . . . Bob Gans and Leland Rogers of Lenox Records brought Little Esther Phillips to Music City for a memorable session which produced "Release Me", best-seller merger of C&W-R&B . . . Mercury named Shelby Singleton v-p in charge of A&R for pop and C&W . . . Tommy Allsup won Liberty's C&W A&R post vacated by Allison.

WSM's 11th annual C&W Festival racked up new attendance records making the Grand Ole Opry's 37th Birthday the biggest celebration ever . . . CMA, in its annual meet, elected Gene Autry president to succeed Ken Nelson. Wes Rose became chairman of the board and Mrs. Jo Walker was upped from Executive Secretary to Executive Director . . . Roy Acuff became the first living C&W star enshrined in the CMA C&W Hall of Fame . . . MR dazzled the trade with its Hit Awards pre-

sented to Jim Reeves, Wilburn Bros., Claude King, Leroy VanDyke, George Jones, Patsy Cline, Webb Pierce, Bill Anderson, Kitty Wells, Billy Walker and Marty Robbins. MR Star of the Year Awards went to Patsy Cline and Jim Reeves. Grant Turner, WSM, was winner of MR's 3rd annual DeeJay of the Year Award . . . MR set a gala tone for Country Music festivities with stunning 104 page '62 Country Special sporting first four color cover in music trade press history.

KENS SanAntonio, Tex. dropped its C&W format—deejay wheel-hoss Bill Mack dropped KENS . . . Acuff-Rose Artists Corp. named Bobby Lord, Hickory Records star, assistant talent manager under topper Jim McConnell.

°December STARDAY RECORDS prexy Don Pierce fingered trade-wise Herb Shucher for label national promo-publicity directorship in major expansion move. Shucher continues to rep Minaret Records . . . Columbia Records decked Marty Robbins with his 6th Golden Guitar Award (for 250,000 sales) for "Ruby Ann" . . . WSM promoted vet announcer Dave Overton to assistant PD . . . Mama sang a swan song as sizzling writer-singer Bill Anderson's Decca slicing "Mama Sang A Song" rocking-chaired out of the C&W Big 50 list after 25 weeks—six weeks a Number One Song!

Texan Jim Reeves took on Lone Star Stater Ray Baker to ramrod his Tuckahoe and Open Road pubbery firms . . . MR launched NYC offices with Bruno Dutkowsky mags man in Big Town . . . MR's color-filled year end trade review issue nailed C&Waned "I Can't Stop Loving You" by