

NASHVILLE THIS WEEK

Country Christmas Shopping Guide

It's the day after Thanksgiving, and you still haven't started your Christmas shopping? Or are you giving out those promo cassettes again this year? Let your Uncle Ken suggest a few ideas.

- The Country Music Foundation's holiday gift catalog may have the unique Christmas gifts you're looking for. Rare Hank Williams recordings, Reba McEntire and Judds videos, the "Nashville Cookbook," the "1991 Official Country Calendar," and folk art are just a few of the gifts it offers. For a free copy, contact the CMF at Dept. M, 4 Music Square East, Nashville, 37203; phone: (800) 255-2357 or (615) 256-1639.

- Polydor Records will release an 84-cut, three-box set entitled "Hank Williams - the Original Singles Collection Plus" at the end of the month. The chronological collection will include two songs Williams released as Luke The Drifter.

- The Judds' new home video package, "Love Can Build A Bridge," will include the first 3-D music video for their new RCA/Nashville single. Viewers who have special glasses can see it in 3-D - to others it appears normal. The package includes never-before-seen footage from Naomi's wedding, exclusive interviews, and scenes from their tour. It will be in stores early next month.

Incidentally, Ashland, KY recently renamed its 16th Street Plaza to Judd Plaza in honor of its two famous daughters. The duo will serve as grand marshals for the city's Christmas parade.

Bits & Pieces

- CBS/Nashville President Roy Wunsch has been elected the Country Music Association's Chairman of the Board, and songwriter Thom Schuyler will serve as President. At their November 9 meeting, CMA's directors elected a slate of 26 officers to serve one-year terms. Others elected include Exec. VP Bud Wendell, Sr. VP Irving Waugh, VPs Jerry Bradley, Rick Blackburn, David Conrad, Merle Kilgore, Dan Halyburton, Kitty Moon, Tim DuBois, Jack Weston, Bruce Hinton, Stan Mores, Dick Gary, Steve Moore, Harold Shedd, Tim Wiperman, First International VP Kick Van Hengel, Second

NEW ARTIST FACT FILE

Mike Reid

Born: 5/24/47 Altoona, PA
Current Single: "Walk On Faith"
Current Album: "Turning For Home"; due in early '91
Producer: Steve Buckingham
Label: Columbia
Publishing: Almo Irving Music/Brio Blues Music
Musical Influences: Leon Russell, Patsy Cline, Bonnie Raitt, Mickey Newbury, Tony Bennett

- **Background:** Reid's introduction to music came when he began taking piano lessons at age six. Though his interest continued, he focused on athletics. His football prowess in high school caught the attention of major colleges. He opted for Penn State, where he played under legendary coach **Joe Paterno**.

Reid's play interested pro scouts. Graduating with a music degree, he was a Cincinnati Bengals first-round draft pick. His success continued - he was named rookie of the year and an All-Pro twice. Five years later, four knee operations and what he calls the "modern era" of contract negotiations helped him realize, "Time doesn't stop for anybody." He retired.

Reid turned his attention to music, playing Colorado ski resorts with the **Apple Butter Band**. He then formed his own band and played a Cincinnati club, where curious football fans came to the shows. "They'd leave saying, 'It's so sad that he gave up a great football career to play lousy music,'" Reid recalled. He admits the "music wasn't what it needed to be." He continued playing clubs until "I realized I had to get myself and my music on record, or the clubs weren't going to get any bigger."

He moved to Nashville in the early '80s and landed a writing deal with **ATV Music**. Success didn't come easy. For a year and a half "I tried to get the songwriting lights to go on." When he hooked up with **Rob Galbraith**, who worked for **Ronnie Milsap**, the wheels began to turn. "Rob understood my strengths and weaknesses."

His writing skills began to develop. His first cut was a **Con Hunley** B side, "Table For One." Then, in a three-month period, he wrote three songs for Milsap's "Inside" LP, in-



Mike Reid

cluding the hit title cut and "Stranger In My House." On a roll, he scored four cuts on Milsap's next project, and then wrote hits for **Tanya Tucker**, **Don Williams**, **Lorrie Morgan**, the **Judds**, and **Alabama**.

- **Signing:** In '87, Reid was invited by **RCA/Nashville's Mary Martin** and **Joe Galante** to join their "Signatures" project, an LP written and performed by some of Nashville's top tunesmiths. "I was flattered out of my mind," remembered Reid. His resulting duet with Milsap, "Old Folks," reached No. 2, and was added to Milsap's "Heart And Soul" LP.

In '89, after hearing his demo for **Willie Nelson's** "There You Are," **CBS/Nashville's Steve Buckingham** and **Bob Montgomery** approached him about a possible recording contract. He said, "Yes."

- **Songs:** Reid wrote or co-wrote all the songs on the project. His co-writers included **Allen Shamblin** (the current single), **Rory Michael Bourke**, **Kye Fleming**, **Troy Seals**, **Tim DuBois**, and **Restless Heart's Larry Stewart**. Reid also played piano on the album.

Reid's thoughts on the project: "If I were walking into a record store and I met someone who said, 'I just bought your record,' would I reach into my pocket and say 'Let me buy that back from you?' Or would I say, 'That's the best that I can do. It's what I mean to say.' I believe in this music. This is the best that I can do right now."

International VP **Keith James**, Secretary **Jim Powers**, Asst. Secretary **Sonny Anderson**, Treasurer **Wayne Halper**, Asst. Treasurer **Terry Cline**, Sergeant at Arms **Randy Owen**, and Asst. Sergeant at Arms **Mike DuBois**.

- **Mark Collie**, **Irene Kelley**, and gospel artist **Kim Patton** recently played for 4000 military medical personnel at Nashville's Opryland Hotel. Collie performed "Another Old Soldier," a song inspired by his father, a World War II vet (R&R, 11/2). Kelley performed her "Unsung Heroes," which was inspired by her father - also a veteran. The performances were videotaped and will be sent to troops in Saudi Arabia as part of "Operation Desert Song" (R&R, 11/9).

-Ken Tucker



THANKS TO... DAVID CHAMBERLAIN, ROYCE PORTER AND RED STEGALL

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Thanks, George Strait



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MCA RECORDS

FLASHBACK

1 YEAR AGO TODAY

• No. 1: "A Woman In Love" - Ronnie Milsap

5 YEARS AGO TODAY

• No. 1: "Morning Desire" - Kenny Rogers

10 YEARS AGO TODAY

• No. 1: "Smoky Mountain Rain" - Ronnie Milsap
 • "9 To 5" by Dolly Parton debuts at No. 49. Seven weeks later it reaches No. 1 and stays there for three weeks.

15 YEARS AGO TODAY

• No. 1: "In The Movies/Shades Down" - Merle Haggard (3rd week)
 • "Convoy" by C.W. McCall debuts at No. 36. Four weeks later it goes to No. 1 and spends two weeks there.