

Swinging Country Music Festival

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to Francis Williams Preston, local BMI head, who, as in years past, had the situation well in hand.

Things really began to happen Friday with just about everyone in who was coming. It was kind of like homecoming in the lobby of the Jackson. We got to see so many old friends we hadn't seen for the past year.

I suppose the only place in which Buck Owens spent more time than the lobby of the Jackson was at the WSM Breakfast where all the trade awards were presented. Buck picked up two **Record World Awards** plus many others and our prediction that he would need a truck to haul them all home was right on the button. There were several outstanding moments at that breakfast. The most outstanding was the standing ovation given Dizzy Dean when he was made an honorary member of the Grand Ole Opry by all-time Opry great, Roy Acuff, and then they did a duet on "The Wabash Cannonball." Another standing ovation went to WSM's Trudy Stamper who retires this year after 23 years of faithful public relations service to The Grand Ole Opry. A special **Record World Award** was given to Trudy by Bob Austin. On a lighter note Republican Roy Acuff paid off a bet to Democrat Ernest Tubbs and Pappy Tipton of WCNW, Hamilton, Ohio, picked up the \$500 first prize and all the added loot that went with it as the Grand Ole Opry disk jockey of the year.

The highlight of the '64 convention came Friday night when the CMA held the world premiere showing of MGM's "Your Cheatin' Heart," the life story of Hank Williams. The theater was packed with the great and the near-great as former WSM announcer T. Tommy Cutrer did his usual wonderful job of handling the stage show that was held prior to the showing of the movie. It was during this that Tex Ritter was named to the

Country Music Hall of Fame with the presentation being made by Francis Williams Preston. Yours truly acted as master of ceremonies along with Hap Wilson to greet and introduce to the tremendous crowd gathered in front of the theater all the dignitaries on hand for the occasion. There was Edd "Kookie" Byrnes and his lovely wife, Asa Maynor, George Montgomery, Chris Noel, Arthur O'Connell who plays the part of Fred Rose in the movie, Susan Oliver who plays Hank's wife, Audrey, Producer Sam Katzman and his wife, Hortense Petra, Director Gene Nelson, Hank Williams Jr. and Audrey Williams. A real Hollywood premiere right here in Music City, USA!

Saturday brought the RCA Victor breakfast, The Columbia party, The Saturday Night Grand Ole Opry and the Pamper Dance at the Municipal Auditorium with Ray Price and the Cherokee Cowboys.

And between Wednesday night and Sunday morning there were many things to see and do. I wonder if everybody really got to see everything and do all the things they intended to do when they came? If so, I would like to meet them.

Who can ever forget the jam sessions held in the Sho-Bud room or the Emmons Guitar room? No one who was there will ever forget the guitar playing of Capitol's Glen Campbell that Thursday night. To all of those musicians . . . Buddie Emmons, Jimmy Day, Hal Ruggs, Buddy Charlton, Buddy Spiker, Tommy Bush, Pete Burke, Gary Adams, Glen Campbell, Donny Young and any others I may have left out . . . thanks for some moments well spent.

And so, we now eagerly wait for next year. Maybe you missed it this year. If you did you missed one of the finest. According to Bill Williams, who takes over in Trudy's place at WSM, next year's gonna be bigger!

Sanders Ly-Rann Music VP

NASHVILLE—Jack Sanders, vet deejay who is a two-time winner of the Radio-TV Mirror Magazine No. 1 Deejay of the Year Award, has stepped out of radio to take over a Vice-President of Ly-Rann Music, fast rising publishing firm owned by Audrey Williams, widow of the C&W Hall of Fame star Hank Williams.

Sanders resigned his deejay post at Nashville's WKDA Radio in order to accept the music post. Earlier, during a five year tenure at Louisville, Ky.'s hot WAKY, Sanders grabbed the No. 1 show rating and held on to it for five years.

Stage Review

Pop Type Tunes A-Plenty Brighten 'Something More'

BY DAVE FINKLE

NEW YORK—For most of the time in "Something More," the new musical at Broadway's Eugene O'Neill, it's just song after song after dance after song. Which is hardly a bad idea in a musical and is an especially good idea in this musical which has a particular problem.

The problem in "Something More" is that nothing much of dramatic interest happens. Well, almost nothing. Novelist Bill Deems and wife Carol are blissfully happy together with their three children and home in Mineola. There is one irritation. They have become so involved with local civic life that Bill can't get down to work on his second novel. He begins to suspect that life has more to offer than their busy but trivial routine allows time for. So on impulse, he grabs his family by their reluctant wrists and they all jet off to Portofino, Italy. There life is sweet and the prospect of enriching extramarital adventures is dangled before Bill and Carol. After very little deliberation neither of them decides to go through with it, and the curtain falls on a happy ending.

That's it. And the biggest laugh of the evening may be an implied one: that a couple from suburbia has to go to Italy to bump into infidelity.

Rewarding Score for ABC—If

But, as mentioned above, this thin plot is fleshed out with a score of a score or more—music by Sammy Fain and lyrics by Marilyn and Alan Bergman. And much of their work is rewarding. They've written with the pop audience in mind and many of the tunes should make the transition from stage to record to supper club with ease. "Better All the Time," "In No Time at All," "I Feel Like New Year's Eve," "One Long Last Look" and "Life is Too Short" are the best of the big bunch. (ABC-Paramount has the cast album and a long one it will be if recorded—the label has not yet decided whether it will or won't record.)

"Something More" is also served by an energetic cast under the direction of Jule Styne, on holiday himself from his usual composer's role and looking for something more than renown as a tunesmith. Barbara Cook is the leader of the group, putting pasta and other tasty ingredients into her playing. Miss Cook is a button-faced soprano with a cute flair for comedy and tremendous stamina and when she's singing the show's best numbers, they've really got something. Arthur Hill as Bill makes his music comedy debut and is also obviously after something more than a reputation as a top dramatic actor. He won't find it here. His singing is only adequate and the part gives him little room to act. Ronny Graham, playing a neanderthal-browed Europe bum, Peg Murray as an Italian widow on the make and Joan Copeland as a sculptress of noble birth are entrusted with the other roles and do right by them. Two dancers identified in the program only as the "bongo couple" do most of the strenuous dancing and they're really riveting.

There's always something to watch or listen to in "Something More"—a song, enchanting Barbara Cook lampooning, the bongo couple rippling, but it usually has very little to do with the book. And so despite the constant work, the playwright Nate Monaster can't quite disguise the fact that "Something More" is too often la dull-ce vita.

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