

NSA Names Kristofferson Songwriter of Year

By CHUCK NEESE

■ NASHVILLE — For the fourth straight year, the Nashville Songwriters Association has hosted the most emotion-packed awards dinner of the many held by the local music community.

The evening began on a light note with sidesplitting addresses by SESAC Nashville rep Joe Talbot and guitarist-producer Chet Atkins. The festivities turned to a more serious note when 21 songwriters accepted citations of merit from NSA's 500 members. Some winners, notably Raymond A. Smith, Tom T. Hall and top award winner Kris Kristofferson, wiped away tears of joy as they approached the speakers stand to accept their citations from Association Presi-

dent Eddie ("One Song") Miller and MC Biff Collie.

NSA Songwriter of the Year was Kris Kristofferson ("For The Good Times," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Me and Bobby McGee," "Come Sundown," etc.).

Best Songwriter citations went to Bill Anderson, Mac Davis, Dallas Frazier, Bill Graham, Merle Haggard, Ted Harris, Loretta Lynn, Mickey Newberry, Eddie Noack, Dolly Parton, Marty Robbins, Whitey Shaffer, Paul Simon, Joe South, Bob Talbert and Alex Zanetis.

Special Merit Runner-Up awards: Tom T. Hall ("One Hundred Children"), Gene MacLellan ("Snowbird"), Raymond A. Smith ("15 Years Ago") and Conway Twitty ("Hello Darling").



AT NSA AWARDS: from left, Bob Beckham, Combine Music Manager; Marijohn Wilkin, co-owner, Buckhorn Music; Monument artist-writer Kris Kristofferson; Hubert Long, co-owner, Buckhorn Music; Audie Ashworth, Manager, Moss Rose Publications; RCA's Chet Atkins; SESAC's Joe Talbot; writer Tom T. Hall; Record World's Red O'Donnell; RCA artists Porter Wagoner, Dolly Parton; writer-artist Mickey Newberry and wife; writer Raymond A. Smith and wife.

NASHVILLE REPORT

By RED O'DONNELL



Red O'Donnell

■ NASHVILLE—Used Car Dept. If you don't think Little Jimmy Dickens is the travelingest, consider this proof positive: Little James just traded in his 1970 roadcar (station wagon) for a 1971 model. The old one was purchased NEW in February last year. When traded in, the mileage meter registered 122,000 miles. Figures out almost 400 miles daily for 11 months of ownership anyway you run it through the computer!

Bountiful Boss Dept. Singer Dolly Parton's birthday gift from Porter Wagoner: a 3-carat diamond ring. Sparkles well with the '71 golden Caddy Porter arranged for Santa to park under her Yule tree the past Dec. 25!

(Continued on page 62)

Lynn Anderson, Tommy Cash At President's Prayer Breakfast

■ Columbia artist Lynn Anderson and Epic artist Tommy Cash have been invited to attend the 19th annual National Prayer Breakfast with the President and Mrs. Nixon and other national leaders from all branches of the government.

The annual event will be held in the International Ballroom

of the Washington Hilton Hotel in the capitol city on Feb. 2 at 8 a.m.

Miss Anderson, whose latest single, "Rose Garden," is at the top of the country charts, has been in the national spotlight since she began her recording career with Columbia. Her music awards include the "Top Female

(Continued on page 61)

COUNTRY PICKS OF THE WEEK

SINGLE



CHARLIE LOUVIN & MELBA MONTGOMERY, "DID YOU EVER" (Tree, Int., BMI). If you think "Tennessee Birdwalk" was commercial, get ready for Charlie and Melba! It's a natural top 10 record. Producer George Richey has paired the countryest of all country artists and it looks like his downhomers are a hit. The line about the bus is a gas! Capitol 3029.

SLEEPER



BILLY "CRASH" CRADDOCK, "KNOCK THREE TIMES" (Pocketfull of Tunes, Jillbern, Saturday, BMI). "Dawn's" cut is #1 on everybody's Top 40 charts and several country jocks have wondered why the cover has been so late coming. Cartwheel is doing a fantastic job in the studio, on the radio and surprisingly, for a new label, in the record shops. Craddock's record will get quick charts in cities with lots of apartment dwellers. Cartwheel A-193.

ALBUM

BILL ANDERSON, "WHERE HAVE ALL OUR HEROES GONE." You ain't heard nothin' till you've heard "Whispers" sing and recite his way through his new album. Bill and producer Owen Bradley selected some of the best songs in Nashville—great cuts like "For the Good Times," "Me and Bobby McGee," "All I Have To Offer You Is Me," "Poison Red Berries." Headliner is Bill's #1 chart-buster, "Where Have All Our Heroes Gone." Decca 75254.

