

# AMERICAN FOLK TUNES

## Cowboy and Hillbilly Tunes and Tunesters

By Nat Green

All Communications to 155 N. Clark St., Chicago 1, Ill.

### Fairs Like Folk Artists

Hundreds of fairs are playing folk artist groups as their feature attraction this year and are finding them among the top money-getters. Playing fairs in the territories covered by their radio programs, these artists are immensely popular and almost invariably attract record crowds.

WLS Artists' Bureau, Chicago, has booked WLS artists into nearly 200 fairs, most of them in the Central and Midwest States. Lulu Belle and Scotty, Arkie, Red Foley, Otto, Judie and Julie and other top station names are in great demand for the annuals.

Midwestern Hayride of WLW, Cincinnati, is playing many Ohio and Indiana fairs, attracting record crowds. Hoosier Hop artists from WOWO, Fort Wayne, Ind., have played numerous Indiana and Michigan fairs, and artists from WSM, Nashville, are in constant demand. Artists from many other stations are making personal appearances at the fairs.

At the Cass County Fair, Weeping Water, Neb., artists from KFAB, Lincoln, Neb., packed the grandstand afternoon and night August 24. Talent including Lily Fickens, Sally and Sue, Perry Douthit, Three Ova Kind, Lols and Joe, Bob Walters, Janice Dudley, Norma Joy Cook, the Prairie Maids, Texas Mary, Dick Wait, Lyle Bremser and the KFAB Polka Band.

Greater Houston County and Tri-State Fair, Dothan, Ala., has engaged Bill Boyd and His Cowboy Ramblers as an added attraction for the fourth straight year. Boyd has proved a big drawing card at Dothan.

### Pioneers on Eastern Tour

Sons of the Pioneers, completing picture assignments at the Republic Studios, will make their first Eastern appearances this season, having been booked for six weeks, starting September 15, by the Jolly Joyce Agency, Philadelphia. In addition to a number of fairs, the group will play parks and theaters. They get under way at Dorney Amusement Park, Allentown, Pa., September 15, and September 16 play Valley View Park, near York, Pa. September 23 they play Liberty Park, near Baltimore, followed by engagements at Warner Bros.' theaters in Eastern Pennsylvania.

### Tunester Tattle

Joe Benedict, Frankie Zeltz and two members of the WGAR Range Riders, Cleveland, recently cut 12 polka pieces for Victor. They will shortly do some Western recordings.

Kitty O'Brien recently introduced Jack Howard's *Do You Think It's Fair?* on the Hoedown Hayloft program on WFIL, Philadelphia.

Cliff Japhet and Tommy Coley recently placed their song *I Wrote a Little Song About You* with La Casa.

Billy Whelan, singing cowboy, is making personal appearances thru Nova Scotia with his Homesteaders Jamboree.

Red River Dave's song *Baby Boy* and Cliff Smith's *Silly Bill* will be published by Chart.

Johnny Bond, Hollywood, is due back

on the West Coast this week after a stay in Oklahoma.

Ace Dehne, well-known guitarist, has been honorably discharged from the army.

Harmie Smith has returned to his programs on KWKH, Shreveport, La., after a three-week vacation in West Virginia.

Hal Burns and Bill Nettles continue to turn out many songs. Four new ones composed in the last month are *I'll Always Call You Darling*, *Trusting My Lonely Heart With You*, *Little You Care* and *Just Forget About Me*.

### Eastern Notes

Old-time fiddlers from all over Pennsylvania staged their annual reunion and picnic August 4 at Lenape (Pa.) Park. Among those attending were such veteran fiddle-playing leaders of hillbilly bands as Christian C. Sanderson, Pop Johnston and Leonard (Heinie) Lee, the last-named a popular entertainer of troops in battle areas in the last war.

Pappy Howard and His Connecticut Colonels, coming in from Cleveland, made their third return appearance this summer at Sleepy Hollow Ranch Quakertown, Pa., August 19. Night previous (18), Howard's troupe appeared at the opening of the Morgantown (Pa.) Fire Company Fair. August 26, Sleepy Hollow Ranch brought in Arkie, the Wood-chopper, and his gang from WLS, Chicago.

Jolly Joyce Agency, Philadelphia, reported the following Labor Day week-end bookings: September 2, Ed East and Polly making a return trip to Valley View Park near York, Pa.; Tex Ritter and his gang of 14 at Liberty Park near Baltimore, and the fourth return engagement this summer of Happy Johnny and his gang from WBAL, Baltimore, to Sleepy Hollow Ranch, Quakertown, Pa.

## Calif. Amusement Enlarging; Bill Smith Named to Manage Biz

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Sept. 1.—Bill Wolf, of California Amusement Company, is enlarging his music operation here with Bill Smith, San Francisco, coming in to manage the operation. Wolf is devoting his entire establishment here to music. His firms in San Francisco and Los Angeles are jobbing outlets and not operating; here California operates only.

Both Wolf and Smith are familiar with music operation, having been associated with the industry for a number of years.

At California Amusement Company Wolf has installed what he believes to be one of the best amplifying systems in the field. The amplifier is used to control volume of his measured music units of which he has more than 500 in and around this city. He also has a number of boxes, which require a fleet of five trucks to service.

While measured music gives the equivalent of two complete tunes during its six minutes of playing and is non-selective, Wolf has been using a system of announcements to bolster plays. His music is on a 24-hour basis with the mechanical player taking care of it from 11 p.m. until 10 a.m. He has two girls working a shift each to do the plugging for his boxes.

Knowing human nature, Wolf hit on the idea of telling the public what tune is coming up. When the femme operator starts a tune to playing for the entire line-up of boxes, she announces the tune. All the boxes along the line are cut-in. If a listener wants to hear that particular tune, then a nickel is deposited. The second tune is also for the same nickel and more than likely one that will please the listener. All tunes are carefully picked with each operator following a program given her when she takes over the controls.

Addition of Smith to the staff is part of Wolf's post-war plans for the development of music operation here. Modern and up-to-date equipment will be installed from time to time, Wolf said.

Smith plans to make his home here, having brought his family to San Diego from the Bay City.



SQUADRON LEADER Frank Siedel, who operated a number of Wurlitzer juke boxes before the war, is shown here on the left in Old Delhi, India. The hieroglyphics which Frank is examining are part of a theater sign just being built. Siedel formerly operated in Montreal and is now a liaison officer attached to RCAF district headquarters in India.

## Fonda Makes Tape Recorders for Use in Home Juke Box Mkt.

CHICAGO, Sept. 1.—Members of the juke box trade who have been watching with interest the development of both the wire and tape recorders during the war, learned this week that the Fonda recorder division of the Jefferson-Travis Corporation is going to manufacture for civilian use a high fidelity home recorder which will use cellophane tape.

Officials of Fonda revealed that reproduction up to 8 hours in length without a break may be made using the new machine.

## Music Distributing Starts L. A. Branch

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 25.—Music Distributing Company, headed by Paul Reiner, has established a local branch here. Reiner is here directing the activities.

Firm recently took on the national distribution of Gem Records, a record label firm headed by Joe Green, writer of *Her Tears Flowed Like Wine*.

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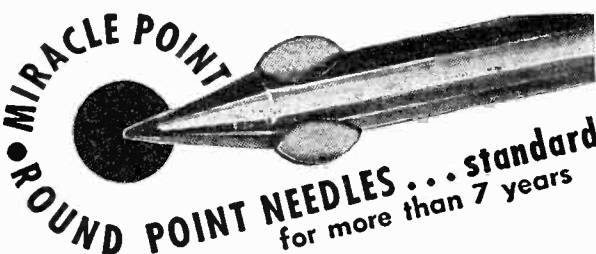
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