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AMERICAN FOLK TUNES**Cowboy and Hillbilly Tunes and Tunesters****Harvest Festival**

Nancy Lee and the Hilltoppers, the Vitacoustic platter foursome, will play the Harvest Festival at Fort Recovery, O., July 19-25. . . . Hank Penny, the King Records singer, made his television debut February 12 over WLWT, Cincinnati, emceeing the audience-participation show, *Musical Ponies*.

Two song folios by King recording artists Grandpa Jones and Cowboy Copas have just been pubbed by Lois Music, a King affiliate. . . . Cowboy Copas will work thru Alabama during March. His current hit, *Signed, Sealed and Delivered*, got him the feature spot on the *Grand Ole Opry* last week. . . . The York Brothers are working Michigan niteries this month.

Jimmy Wakely, film and Capitol platter star, reports that he has just been released in *Song of the Drifter*, for Monogram, with Cliffie Stone,

Arthur Smith and Dick Reinhart also in the flicker. Tunes spotted in the film are *I'll Hold You in My Heart*, by Eddie Arnold, and *It's Been So Long, Darling*, by Ernest Tubb and John Henry. Wakely just finished location on *Oklahoma Blues*, his newest pic, and is currently doing a 45-minute morning disk jockey show over KNX, Hollywood, five days a week. He has been using name guests and reports that Arthur Smith's *Orange Blossom Special* on Capitol is the big request number, while his own *Oklahoma Blues* is going good also.

Change Plans

Since the death of Jack Guthrie January 15 at Veterans' Hospital, Livermore, Calif., Cherokee Jack and the Rhythm Ridin' Wranglers, the band that Guthrie fronted, is mulling an offer to play a ballroom in Tacoma, Wash., in addition to their work over KMO, Tacoma.

Songwriter Lee Penny, now with Berle Adams & Associates, Hollywood, reports that Smiley Burnette broke house records in Birmingham last week, despite bad weather. Burnette, who tours until March and is set to do a picture in May, is cutting a transcribed disk jockey show in his home studios, with the e.t. show set for peddling by Broadcasters' Guild, the Jimmy Parks' firm.

Ozie Waters has forsaken Hollywood for his old stamping grounds, KLZ, Denver. . . . The Sons of the Pioneers do their next flicker in March, with leader Bob Nolan currently in Honolulu on a vacation. Their e.t. show is currently heard over 150 stations, via Teleway Transcriptions. . . . Tex Tyler has a new program over KGER, Hollywood. . . . Ken Curtis and Lee Penny are organizing a new music publishing firm under the banner of Berle Adams' Associates. Curtis has switched from Mercury to Decca.

Spade to Reno

Spade Cooley will start a tour May 1 with Reno, Nev., the first stop, then heading for the Pacific Northwest and Canada, swinging back to the Texas Interstate Theater circuit, then into Chicago and New York. Cooley's new ork features comedy. Spade will get a number of star folk combos to work for him at his Santa Monica Ballroom. Spade's new pic, with the leader in a starring role, is called *The Silver Bandit*. Cooley's house was partially wrecked last week when workmen high above the house loosened a huge boulder, causing it to fall thru the roof of his den.

Zeke Manners back in Hollywood after his recording junket in New York, where he recorded, among others, *Cigars, Cigarettes and Souvenirs*; *They're Out To Trap You* and *Tired Cowboy*. . . . Al Dexter was snowed in down in Texas last week, delaying his return to Hollywood. . . . Red River Dave, of WOAI, San Antonio, has added Mel Winters' piano, Jack Skiles' guitar and Marcus Morales' bass viol.

Philly Story

While several Philadelphia musical bars have been bringing in Western musical units to cash in on the growing popularity of the folk music form, Wilson's Night Club and Restaurant is the first major Philadelphia night club to feature a Western floorshow. For the innovation Wilson's is featuring Dick Thomas's Ramshackle Jamboree, the writer of *Sioux City Sue*, building an entertaining unit around his own singing and accordion playing.

Buddy DeVall, Canadian recording star for Yale platters, recently spent a month's business trip visiting publishers in Gotham.

John A. Lomax, whose hunts uncovered *Home on the Range*, *Dying Cowboy* and more than 10,000 other famous American folk songs, died in a hospital in Greenville, Miss., January 27. A heart attack cheated him of the first public appearance in his home State of Texas before he came to the end of the trail that his ballads foretold. A 40-year hunt for ballads took Lomax into every walk of life. Born in Goodman, Miss., he went to Texas at the age of two and grew up on a farm near Meridian. Funeral services were held in Austin, Tex. Lomax contributed largely to the folklore section of the Library of Congress.

In 38th Year

Nat Vincent, head of the Western and hillbilly department for the Ralph S. Peer Publishing Company, is celebrating his 38th year in the music business. He started in New York in 1910. In 1918 he wrote *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles*. He has other hits to his credit, including *La Veeda*, often featured by Paul Whiteman, and *When the Bloom Is on the Sage*, one of the top standards in the Western field. For the past nine years he has been in Hollywood managing Peer's Western catalog.

According to Mel Shauer and Cliff Carling, a Carnegie Hall Western jamboree is being lined up for Tex Williams and His Western Caravan July 5. Williams will be on his semi-annual personal appearance tour of the East at that time.

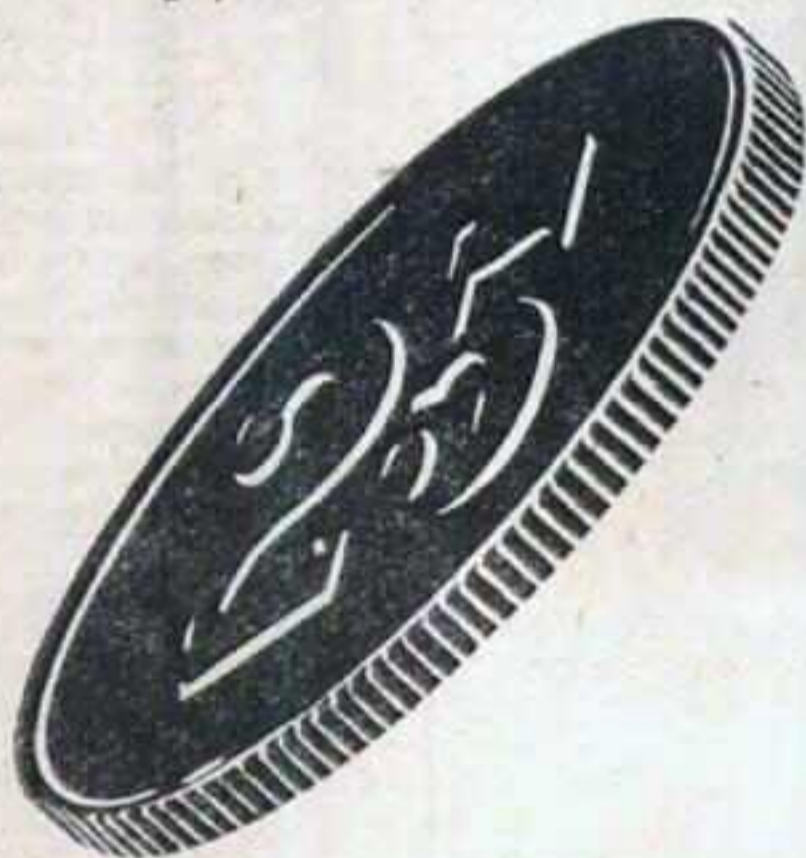
Jimmy Wakely has placed his new plattered 15-minute program, *The Jimmy Wakely Show*, on the market. Series comprises 39 open-end transcriptions. This is in addition to Wakely's show for Columbia Broadcasting System, which is tagged *Jimmy Wakely's Western Music Shop*. After making his next Monogram Western pic about March 1, he will leave on a p.-a. tour covering the Carolinas, Florida and Alabama. Wakely is skedded to be a guestar on *Grand Ole Opry*, originating in Nashville via National Broadcasting Company.

More on Smiley

Smiley Burnette is continuing his p.-a. theater tour with his itinerary taking him from a week's run at Baltimore's Hippodrome Theater (February 12-18) to Williamson, N. C., where he will appear at the Watts Theater February 19. Other North Carolina dates include: February 20, City Theater, Morehead City; February 21, Kehoe Theater, New Bern; February 22, Brake, Wilson; February 23, Onslow, Jacksonville; February 24, Columbus, Whiteville; February 25, Berry, Hartsville; February 26, Colonial, Kannapolis; February 27, the Dunn, Dunn; February 28, State, Newton, and February 29, Sunrise, Southern Pines.

Western song scribe Eddie Dean has two originals being released by the Crystal label of Los Angeles. Dean previously recorded for Majestic. Penned with Hal Blair and Dearest Dean as co-cleffers, tunes coming out are *One Has My Name, the Other Has My Heart*, and *Wake Me in the Mornin' by the Swannee River*.

Personal manager Richard Wiley East to line-up p.-a. tour for Merle Travis, Wesley Tuttle, Andy Parker and the Plainsmen. . . . Jimmie Widner is new vocalist with Spade Cooley while Cameron Hill takes over the guitarist's chair. . . . Jack Kenney's ditty, *T-E-X-A-S*, was recorded by Denny Beckner and his ork for Bulletin. Dale Belmont is the vocalist. Tune was introduced at the inauguration of Texas's Gov. Beauford Jester. . . . Art Satherly, veepee in charge of Columbia Records's American folk and novelty catalog, returned to Hollywood following a five-month sojourn in the East. He leaves soon for Houston and other Southern points to visit artists.

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