

# The Billboard Music Popularity Charts COUNTRY & WESTERN RECORDS

## Folk Talent and Tunes

By JOEL FRIEDMAN

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Lefty Frizzell set for a six-day engagement in Honolulu, starting July 15, in a booking set by Steve Stebbins, of Americana Corporation. . . . The Hoosier Hot Shots back from a tour of the Pacific Northwest and set to play a string of 18 fairs in Southern California. Gil Taylor has rejoined the group as lead singer and bass player. . . . Charlie Lewis, out of KNAL, Victoria, Tex., now booking talent in his area and would like to hear from country artists. . . . Cowboy Copas and band playing dates in Kansas and Iowa thru April. . . . Bill Myrick and His Rainbow Riders have been signed to record for Accent Records. . . . Donn Reynolds continues with personal appearances in the East and his show via WGCB, Red Lion, Pa. . . . Jimmie Skinner visited with Uncle Eb Brown, of WGST, Atlanta, Ga., recently. . . . Ed Hamblen, former Detroit-Chicago booker, is now heading up the WFAA Artists Service, Dallas. . . . Bobby Williamson, Paul Buskirk, Jimmy Kelly, Curly Sanders and the Lovett Sisters played to 9,500 in Lubbock, Tex., recently. . . . The Bob Hope Show, featuring Red Foley, the Harmonaguys, Marguerite McClelland, Betsy Duncan and the Astronauts, scheduled to repeat next year in view of its recent success in Nashville. . . . Betty Cody and Lone Pine turned them away at their date at Jack Witschi's Sport's Arena, North Attleboro, Mass., recently.

Al Cody, of the Cody & Cody Show, back on the road again after picture work in California. . . . The Circle J Ranch Boys, Cherokee Red, Carol Williams, Russel Cooner, Stewart Holler and Bob Nash played the Jamboree last week in Marshall, Tex. . . . Jimmie Williams has replaced Big Jim Stacey as country d.j. on WNOP, Newport, Ky., with Stacey going to WCPO, Cincinnati. . . . April 25 marks the second anniversary at the famed Jimmie Skinner Record Shop in Cincinnati,

with a host of country stars scheduled to attend. Lou Epstein extends an open house invite to any and all in the music business to drop in and say hello. . . . String Bean, of the WSM "Grand Ole Opry," is playing dates with the KFBI Ranch Boys, Jeanie Pierson and Mack Sanders thru Kansas. . . . Gov. Howard Pyle of Arizona has proclaimed May 8 as Rex Allen Day thruout the State, with Rex scheduled to dedicate the new Rodeo Stadium in Willcox, Ariz., his birth place. . . . Jerry Damon, WSTC, Stamford, Conn., drawing tons of mail for the Valley etching of "Angels in the Sky."

The Blackwood Brothers Quartet, gospel singers, drew 30,000 at the million-dollar Akron Baptist Temple recently, and booked solid thruout the month. Group plays Evansville, Ind., on the 17th along with the Statesmen Quartet, Harmonizers, Speer Family, Wally Fowler and the Oak Ridge Quartet and the Original Stamps Quartet. . . . Uncle George and his "WLBC-TV Jamboree," Muncie, Ind., are interested in hearing from Western stars for appearances on the show. . . . Glen Paul and the Lazy River Boys, KULP, Houston, have been signed to All Star Records. . . . Johnny Rion, KSTL, St. Louis, has added two hours daily via KREI, Farmington, Mo. Opening of the hillbilly park in Chain of Rocks, North St. Louis, is scheduled for May 2, with Jimmie Davis headlining. . . . Harry Voight, former branch manager for King Records, Chicago and Dallas, has entered the artist management field, starting off with Mitchell Torok. . . . Young George Riddle, 18-year-old country entertainer, now holding forth at WMRI, Marion, Ind., in addition to having a TV stint via WLBC, Muncie.

T. Texas Tyler scheduled to work at the new Nat Park, Spokane, for the summer with his new manager, Johnny Kelly, planning to book in name acts also.

## Reviews of New C & W Records

Continued from page 26

**JERRY BYRD**  
My Isle of Golden Dreams . . . 73  
MERCURY 70337—The guitars paint an idyllic tonal picture in this relaxed and listenable instrumental. Good program wax. (Remick, ASCAP)

Turner's Turnpike . . . 70  
Bright and cheerful instrumental, this will please many. (Sooner, BMI)

**JACK TUCKER**  
I Was Only Fooling Me . . . 73  
STARDAY 136—Tucker, who sings a song as tho he means it, tells how he fooled himself on this new effort. He sells the tune with sincerity. (Personality, BMI)

Itchin' for a Hitchin' . . . 69  
Tucker wants to get married—to a specific girl, of course. He sings it nicely. (Starrite, BMI)

**JIMMY VERNON**  
Still Afraid of Losing You . . . 72  
KING 1345—In his first effort on the label, Vernon sings out the rapid patter ditty with spirit. Many jukes could profitably carry this side. (Lois, BMI)

Somewhere . . . 70  
For each one who is lonely there is a partner somewhere, chants Vernon. The sentiment is expressed ably. (Acuff-Rose, BMI)

**LINK DAVIS**  
Gumbo Ya-Ya . . . 72  
OKEH 4-18035—A cute Cajun-styled opus receives a better-than-average reading by the singer. Side should do well enough thru the Louisiana and Texas area.

Falling for You . . . 69  
Davis sings this jumping novelty with some life, tho the material is slight.

**WIN STEWART**  
After All . . . 71  
INTRO 6088 — Rural bouncer is awarded an infectious warble by Stewart. (Aladdin, BMI)

I've Waited a Lifetime . . . 69  
Stewart lifts his tenor in a listenable romantic waxing. Occasional spins are the prospect. (Aladdin, BMI)

**ONIE WHEELER**  
Closing Time . . . 71  
OKEH 4-18037—The singer tells of the pain felt by those who would like another drink but are faced with the time known as "closing time." A cute disk that tavern boxes can use.

I'll Swear You Don't Love Me . . . 68  
Onie Wheeler, a warbler who has a bit of the style of Lefty Frizzell, sells this happy novelty neatly. Worth spins.

**JESSE JAMES**  
I Married a Man for His Money . . . 71  
IMPERIAL 8237—Jesse James belts out a solid vocal on this weeper. Ditty contains a good lyric idea, and should get some action among country deejays. (Commodore, BMI)

Now That You're Gone Away . . . 65  
Okay vocal by the thrush on a fair country weeper. (Opal, BMI)

**GABE TUCKER**  
Trip to the City (Part 1 & 2) . . . 70  
TNT 114—Gabe Tucker does a comedy monolog, with an appreciative audience providing suitable sound effects. Thema is a trip to the city by a country lad who wins a radio contest. Some funny lines.

**DICK DYSON**  
I Work in the Daytime . . . 69  
DECCA 29072—Dyson explains that he and his wife can never get together since he works in the daytime and she works at night. Happy side sung capably by the chanter. (Satherly)

Purple Wine and Red Red Roses . . . 68  
Okay country weeper is handled in adequate fashion by Dyson. (Satherly)

**HELEN CARTER**  
Unfit Mother . . . 68  
OKEH 4-18036—On this tearful country weeper the thrush tells of her ruined reputation and her title of unfit mother. Interesting, and may get spins.

Like All Get Out . . . 65  
Pleasant warble by the thrush on a new novelty. She tells of her shiftless, lazy boyfriend—but she loves him like all get out.

### RATINGS—COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

Each record review expresses the opinion of the members of The Billboard music staff. In determining the commercial rating, the following factors are considered: Interpretation, material, artist's name value, distribution power, exploitation potential.

- 90-100, Tops
- 80-89, Excellent
- 70-79, Good
- 60-69, Satisfactory
- 50-59, Limited
- 0-50, Poor

# THE HIT OF 1954



## SLIM WHITMAN

### This Week's Best Buys

THE BILLBOARD, APRIL 10, 1954

According to sales reports in key markets, the following recent releases are recommended for extra profits:

ROSE-MARIE (Harms, ASCAP)—Slim Whitman—Imperial 8236  
One of the fastest-breaking country records in many weeks. Within ten days of release, the disk was rated strong in Atlanta, Dallas, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Nashville, Houston, Buffalo and New England. Also reported good in Chicago and Los Angeles. Flip is "We Stood at the Altar" (Shapiro-Bernstein, ASCAP).

# "ROSE MARIE"

#8236

# "WE STOOD AT THE ALTAR"

45-8236

IN CANADA ON QUALITY LABEL



6425 Hollywood Blvd.

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