

## DENNY HEADS BOARD OF COUNTRY MUSIC FUND

NASHVILLE—J. William Denny, president of Cedarwood Publishing Co., has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Country Music Foundation, the non-profit corporation charged with operation of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

Owen Bradley, Decca Records, was named president, and Wesley Rose, Acuff-Rose, is vice-president. Frank Jones of Columbia Records is secretary-treasurer.

Three new members of the board of trustees were elected to replace Roy Acuff, "Lucky" Moeller and Wesley Rose, whose terms expired. They are Roy Horton, Peer-Southern; Steve Sholes, RCA Victor, and Ken Nelson, Capitol Records. Other trustees whose terms still are in force are Mrs. Frances Preston, BMI; Tex Ritter, Capitol Records artist; Hal B. Cook, publisher of Billboard, and attorney Richard Frank.

## ABC to Accelerate Move Into Country Music Field

NASHVILLE — ABC Records is going full-scale into the country music, according to Bill Lowery of Atlanta, who will be charged with the task of establishing production.

Lowery said the label now is in the process of trying to secure "name" talent, and that within five years' time it hoped to be totally competitive in this field.

The Atlanta publisher, talent manager and music business operator said he had proposed a plan to Larry Newton, presi-

dent of ABC, and outlined the manner in which new country artists would be utilized at first while the label is building its association with country. Newton accepted the plan, along with Howard Stark, vice-president in charge of sales and promotion.

Lowery said sessions would be cut wherever the artists are based, either in Nashville or on the West Coast. He added that the label's first three country tunes, with new artists, would be released this month, and perhaps four more next month. Lowery said ABC Records is competitive in all other facets of the music industry, and this would round out the picture.

Say You Saw It in Billboard

## Acuff-Rose Plans to Bow A New Label

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storage, printing and studio operations.

The new facility houses the domestic corporate headquarters of Acuff-Rose Publications, Inc.; Fred Rose Music, Inc.; Milene Music, Inc.; Acuff-Rose Artists Corporation and Hickory Records, Inc.

Hickory Records will produce a second label, as yet unnamed, in an expansion of its marketing efforts. W. D. Kilpatrick and Lester Rose, officials of the firm, said Hickory has access to more production, both domestic and foreign, than it can accommodate in the Hickory label, and this will provide an additional outlet. The new label will feature primarily contemporary music. In some cases, the new label will go through present Hickory distributors, and in others it will not. The initial release will come in May. The present Hickory promotion men will be utilized: Gene Kennedy in the East, Wayland Stubblefield in the South, and Del Roy on the West Coast. Acuff-Rose also has hired a new public relations firm for representation—Noble-Dury.

Buck Owen's "Sam's Place" is doing so well it is spurring sales of the album from which it was taken. . . . England's Frank Ifield, arriving in the U. S. April 19, hops to Nashville to record on Hickory. He'll return to be on the Ed Sullivan show in New York May 7. In Nashville he'll cut four or eight sides. . . .

## Nashville Scene

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Anchorage, Alaska, and returns to serve with manager Jim Gemmill as judge in the talent contest at Winchester's Apple Blossom Festival. . . . Look for something strong on the Roy Montague release of "I Don't Go There Any More." He's a new artist to watch.

Mary Madison, Silver Star artist, appeared on "Country Music Time" in Germany for a month-long period. . . . Dave Dudley's "My Kind of Love" is now getting pop action as well as country. . . . Arthur Smith of Charlotte, N. C., has cut some folk-style commercials for Kent Cigarettes. . . . Merle Travis, after more than three consecutive months in the Far East, will fly to Europe where he will spend an entire month. . . . Larry and Lorrie, the Collins Kids, follow an 18-day swing through Germany by opening for three weeks at Harrah's Tahoe, and then on to Reno. . . . Gertrude Feith, Cheyenne songwriter, has received a contract from Leslie Goodwin for a TV screen play. . . . Howard Vokes gets away from his traditional country sound with his recording in a new Betty Bee release, "Judge of Hearts."

Dorsey Burnette, who has done virtually all of his work on the West Coast, will produce his first session in Nashville. . . . Roy Orbison, after five weeks in the British Isles, cuts an album and some singles, and takes off on a college concert tour.

Acuff-Rose's "Sounds of Nashville," a radio series cut for the Armed Forces Network, has completed its first 26 shows and immediately was contracted for an additional 14. The show is estimated to be heard by more than

200 million people in the world.

Hickory has signed Gail Wynters, of Lexington, Ky., a well-known club entertainer. Her first release, "Snap Your Fingers," is just out. . . . Lou Stringer, Nashville musician, has published the first edition of his new tabloid, "The Countryopolitan." In it he features 20 artists, printing current information. It is mailed to disk jockeys, talent buyers and club owners. . . . Glen Pine, Montana born and show-business trained, has a new release on the Twin Rose label, titled "Roxbed of Life by a Drunken Wife," and "Lookin' for My Teeth." His is a hard luck story. Like so many others, he's tried to make it big, and spent many recent months singing and playing in saloons and passing the hat. He has scores of credits, now is looking for the break.

Tammy Wynette, the newest star in the Hubert Long talent agency, has recorded a Moss Rose song for her latest Epic offering, "Send Me No Roses." . . . Ethel Delaney, the "Swiss Miss Yodeler" of Ohio Records, just returned from a promotional tour through Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. . . . David Houston will appear on the NBC Grammy Awards show, filmed April 17. On May 6, he will appear in Shreveport for the first time since he was a 17-year-old. It will be David Houston Day there. . . . Dave Dudley was presented the "Roving Ambassador" award at the Buffalo Days Centennial Celebration in Regina, Saskatchewan. . . . Stonewall Jackson packed the auditorium at Macon, Ga. It was a turnaway crowd.

Say You Saw It in Billboard

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