

# Country Music

THE ORIGINAL VERSION!  
"IT'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE BIT LONGER"

CME #4635

BY The 'Summer Man' Cal

**ANNE CHRISTINE**

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## Program Seminar In West Virginia

WHEELING, W. Va.—"Country Programming, a Search for Self" will be the topic of the programming seminar during the Eastern States Country Music, Inc., convention here May 19-21.

Many of the top program directors from throughout the eastern states will play audio presentations of the sound of their respective stations and will discuss details of the formats that have proven successful in their markets.

The panelists represent a cross-section ranging from major to small markets, from modern to traditional program. Those taking part are Jerry Adams, WWOL, Buffalo, N.Y.; Jim Pride, WRCP, Philadelphia; Bob Williams, WASP, Brownsville, Pa. and Art MacDonald, WCDQ, Hamden-New Haven, Conn.

Registrations for the convention should be sent to ESCMI, Capitol Music Hall, Wheeling, W. Va. 26003.

ESCMI held the last of its regional talent screening shows at Davies Lake in Rockwell County, N.Y., hosted by Johnny Scott of WRKL and Mac Sullivan of WTBE. The Green Mountain Boys were the winning band. Joe Maclean, Union Beach, N.J., was named Top Male Vocalist, and will cut a single on Countryopolitan Records. Best Female Vocalist was Sue Smith, of Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

Donna Marie Taruto and Sally Ann Geremin, who have a radio show at WWCO in Waterbury, Conn., teamed to win the Best

Duet award. Johnny Scott of WRKL won the Disk Jockey Award. Miss Cindy Ferguson was selected Queen of Country Music for the area.

These award winners will represent the metropolitan New York and New Jersey region, and will compete against other regional winners during the convention here.

## Skeeter Davis Giving Her Promotion Personal Touch

NASHVILLE — RCA artist Skeeter Davis plans to carry both promotional and sales plans with her on all her future bookings, working with distributors and retailers in pushing her records.

The novel idea, formulated by Miss Davis and her producer, Ronnie Light, will include the direct sale of her singles and albums in areas where they are not stocked in retail outlets.

Under the plan, Miss Davis will contact record shops in all areas where she is booked. She will offer to supply the records, which she will purchase from distributors, and conduct autograph parties in stores. She also will visit each city well in advance of the time of her scheduled show, and make herself available for whatever promotion is necessary, including radio and television appearances.

She plans to travel in a limousine with a telephone so she can contact stations as she approaches a booking.

Plagued with the same problem as many other artists who simply cannot find their records in the retail shops, Miss Davis said she

## Open Door Agency Opened By Hofer in Nashville

NASHVILLE—The Open Door Agency, Inc., has officially opened here under the direction of Betty Hofer, a leading public relations specialist.

The agency has been established to "develop talent and create concepts within the music and broadcast industries," Miss Hofer said.

A number of separate divisions will operate underneath the corporate umbrella, with its initial venture including two music publish-

ing companies. They are being established by Miss Jean Zimmerman, formerly with Columbia Records. She will serve as professional manager of the publishing companies and will devote most of her time working with new songwriters.

Miss Hofer, who has an extensive background in broadcasting, public relations and advertising, currently has as clients such artists as Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass, Chet Atkins, Welton Lane and the Oak Ridge Boys.

Miss Hofer, formerly with the Bull Hudson Agency and Noble Dury Public Relations, noted that there is an "extensive amount of activity to be developed in outlying areas of the country," and said business would broaden far beyond public relations.

"Open Door will be working with many of the small market broadcasters," she said, "where others don't want to bother, or simply haven't even tried to be of service."

The agency goes into production this month on a total sales-service package for broadcasters, featuring Davis and the Brass.

## Nashville Scene

By BILL WILLIAMS

Capitol Records has hosted a celebration honoring **Buck Owens** and kicking off "Buck Owens Month" at Knaggs Berry Town in Studio City. The festivities included a special award presentation to Buck from **Bhaskar Menon**, Capitol president. A lot of VIP's were on hand for the occasion. . . . A highly successful country music package featuring **Ray Price**, **Sonny James** and **Faron Young** sold two complete houses in advance of show time at Shady Grove music fair in Gaithersburg, Md. The program was promoted by **Steve Baker** and Mountain Productions, Inc. . . . **Linda K. Lance** is about to sign with a growing label in Nashville.

Former disk jockey **Michael Molinari** has written a book on country music, devoted to the fan. It will be released during the convention in Nashville next October. . . . When producers of the French Television network were turned down for shooting some films in Nashville because of failure to clear with the musician's union, the film turned to action shots of a non-singing nature. . . . **Patsy Montana** follows **Jimmie Skinner** into the **Howard Vokes**-booked show in Pennsylvania. . . . **Hickory's Glenn Barber** has received a certificate of appreciation for his participation in the "We Care" project in Buckley, Wash. Glenn was cited as a "showman, musician and rare humanitarian."

Brothers **David** and **Lefty Frizzell** joined forces for a two-week tour for the Jack Roberts talent agency. They appear together infrequently. Roberts has **Charley Pride** booked for appearances in the Northwest in August. . . . **Dottie West** has changed the name of her band from the **Heartaches** to **Cross Country**. . . . When **Brenda Lee** departs on her 27 city tour of Japan, she'll take along the 17-piece **Sharps & Flats** orchestra. She is scheduled for a recording session in Tokyo. . . . When **David Houston** played the Ramp Festival in Cosby, Tenn., it was the largest crowd ever to witness a show there.

**Billy (Crash) Craddock** had turnaway crowds at the Countryland Club in Denver, according to **Dave Barton** of the Hubert Long Agency. . . . **Hubert Long**, by the way, has been moved to a convalescent home. Although his con-

dition is still bad, he is able to communicate with most of his visitors. . . . **Jim Foglesong** has produced a **Dale Ward** session for Dot. . . . The **Geezinslaw Brothers** have made a visit to Nashville and made several TV appearances. . . . **Donna Fargo** has just completed her second session. . . . RCA engineers are breathing easier. They've been assured that the closing of the studio in Chicago will not affect the position of the Nashville engineers, even though some of the Chicago men have seniority. . . . **Charlie Louvin's** newest ballad for Capitol, "Just In Time," was co-written by **David Alan Coe** and **Jimmy Townsend**.

**Gene Crawford**, front man for the **David Houston Show**, has had his first single released by Chart. It was produced by **Tillman Frank**. . . . Grammer guitars remain popular. The Nashville shop has had its third burglary. This time \$7,000 worth of equipment and parts were taken, including **Doyle Wilburn's** own guitar which was in for repair. . . . The second annual "County Festival U.S.A." is set for the Buck Lake Ranch at Angola, Ind., June 25. Among those on the show are **Loretta Lynn**, **Mel Tillis**, the **Duke of Paducah**, **Hank Williams Jr.**, **Faron Young**, **Anthony Armstrong Jones**, **Conway Twitty**, **Waylon Jennings**, **Lamar Morris**, **Merle Kilgore**, **Gary Shupe** and at least six bands. It was a huge success last year.

During the Fan Fair poll, at the recent fan gathering in Nashville, **Buck Owens** and the **Buckaroos** were named the Best Bluegrass Band. Six-thousand cast their votes. . . . RCA's **Dickey Lee** has recorded the old standard, "Ashes of Love," which also will be the title of his album. The LP contains many standards. . . . Columbia's **John Allan Cameron** has been set as a guest on the Western Canada tour of the **Anne Murray Show**. An intensive promotional campaign will coincide with the tour. . . . **Johnny Western** and his show have been held over two weeks at the Ponderosa Hotel in Reno, and he has been offered a multi-week contract there for this year and next year as well. . . . **David Rogers'** daughter, **Tonya**, suffered severe cuts of her foot while wading in a creek while he was on the road. She'll be on crutches for weeks.

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ALBUM OF THE WEEK:  
"It's A Sin"—Slim Whitman—(United Artist)

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