

Country Music

Country Goes to Bat at Ballparks

NASHVILLE—The Music City baseball team, which includes top-billed artists, record companies and sports personalities, will play in at least six major league baseball parks this summer.

In an effort to "expose country music to all baseball fans," the games will be followed by a one-hour country music show, featuring those playing ball and "others who want to take part."

3 Publishers Swell Totals

NASHVILLE — Announcement of the formation of three major publishing firms here was made this week.

Harlan Sanders, formerly associated with the House of Cash, has formed Willow Fair (BMI) and Willow Green (ASCAP), and is signing a series of writers.

Sanders first received attention as a song writer while serving time in a California prison with Glen Sherley. Johnny Cash was instrumental in the release of both men. He formed the companies with Cash's blessings.

The other company, Let There Be Music, Inc., was formed by Buzz Cason Enterprises, and is geared exclusively for new writers. It will not include any of Cason's own material. Songs from the catalog already have been involved in recordings.

Nashville Scene

The Buddy Lee Agency, now the largest of its kind in the world, keeps on signing country artists. The latest of these are Hal Wayne and Bobbie Roy. Buddy now has close to 80 artists on his roster. . . . Claude Gray, plagued with misfortune, lost the fan of the engine on his bus while on an East Coast tour. He found it, though, after it smashed through his radiator. . . . Doyle Holly set for a new LP on Barnaby. . . . David Rogers again knocked them out at the Cow Palace in Colorado Springs. . . . Don Parker, of the Don and Carla team, is recovering from exhaustion, which plagues many of the artists. . . . Lefty Frizzell set in Bermuda at the end of this month. . . . Quinnie Acuff and son just back from a Miami Beach vacation.

Danny Davis and the Brass return to Harrah's in Reno over the holidays next December and January.

SCRUGGS' 1ST FILM SCORE

NEW YORK—Earl Scruggs will write the motion picture score for the Robert B. Radnitz film, "Where the Lillies Bloom." The assignment marks the banjo player's debut as a composer of a complete film score. Previously, Scruggs' "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" had been incorporated into the score for the film, "Bonnie and Clyde." The Scruggs Revue, currently engaged in a national tour, will also perform on the film's soundtrack.

NUDIE BOWS OWN LABEL

LOS ANGELES — Nudie, who creates costumes for the leading recording artists in the world ranging from Elvis Presley to the Grateful Dead and almost every country artist who's ever plunked a guitar, is launching his own record label, Nudie Records. First release was produced by Cliffie Stone and features Nudie playing mandolin with such sidemen as Tex Williams, Smokey Rogers, Roy Lanham, Dusty Rhodes, and Joe Carioca. Corky Mayberry, veteran country music air personality now with KFOX-AM here, is a partner in the new label.

The album will be called "Nudie and His Mandolin." Shipments to radio stations nationwide should go out within a month.

Nudie has played the mandolin as a hobby for years and as a kid once appeared on stage at the Palace Theater in New York with Eddie Cantor, but got stage fright and didn't play.

Among those on the team are Tommy Cash, Lloyd Green, Charlie McCoy, Bob Luman, Roy Drusky, Don Smith, Jerry Foster, Ed Bruce, Charley Pride (when available), Columbia's Gene Ferguson, former St. Louis Cardinal pitcher Jerry Cosman, and coaches Dick Sisler, formerly of Philadelphia, and George Archie, a one-time Washington Senator.

Games currently are scheduled for Atlanta Stadium (July 15); Busch Stadium in St. Louis (Aug. 11), the Astrodome in Houston (Aug. 18-19), with tentative dates in Baltimore, Cleveland and Kansas City.

The music team plays a 7-inning exhibition against local sports personalities (football players, retired baseball players, etc.) prior to the regularly scheduled game and then puts on the 60-minute show after the major league contest. Charlie McCoy is director of entertainment.

Some local games also are planned, and these are for charity.

Edwards Foundation To Benefit From Reunion

HOLLYWOOD—A reunion of the featured artists of Cliffie Stone's "Hometown Jamboree" will take place here at the Palladium May 18, for the benefit of the John Edwards Memorial Foundation.

The show, planned and staged by KLAC, will bring together Ernie Ford, Molly Bee, Merle Travis, Dallas Frazier, Bucky Tibbs, Jane & Jeanie Black, Billy Strange, Billy Leibert, George Brunz, Jane Davids, Johnny & Jonie Mosby, Wesley & Marily Tuttle, and Harold Hensley.

The John Edwards Memorial Foundation, based at U.C.L.A., is chartered as an educational non-profit corporation, and was established "for the purpose of furthering the serious study, recognition and preservation" of country music.

"It is our responsibility to see that the Foundation continues its

fine work and that takes money," said Bill Ward, KLAC manager. He noted that all those contributing their talents feel the same way.

The entire evening's program will be broadcast by KLAC.

Mountainous Talent Search

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—The second annual KPIX Talent Hunt is underway, with cash prizes, television appearances and other valuable awards.

Winners will compete in the finals at the Pappy Dave Stone Country Music Festival during the third week in June.

In addition to the cash, the ultimate winner will get an appearance on the Bill Anderson TV show, an audition for an appearance on the "Grand Ole Opry," a similar audition for the Bill Goodwin Talent Agency in Nashville, a tour and audition for Buck Owens Enterprises, a chance to perform on stage with Owens, and a week's trip for two, sailing the Caribbean.

Last year's winner, Bonnie Nelson, now has a recording contract with United Artists, a booking agreement with Bill Goodwin, and has made an "Opry" appearance.

NASHVILLE — Guitarist/RCA executive Chet Atkins is resting comfortably following "successful surgery of the colon."

Atkins is hospitalized here at the Miller Clinic. Any mail sent him simply at that address will reach him.



PHONOGRAM INC. announces the addition of Penny DeHaven to the Mercury label. Pictured above at the signing is Miss DeHaven and her producer Jerry Kennedy who is vice president, Phonogram Inc., Nashville A&R. The release of her first single is planned immediately.

Stax Country Group In Expansion Surge

MEMPHIS—Enterprise Records, the country arm of the Stax-Volt empire, has "quietly" put its operation together and now is hitting the market hard with product.

Sailing along for a year with only one artist, O.B. McClinton, the firm has added four new artists and is in the process of signing others.

It has just released a McClinton album and is rushing a new single. It has released singles by Paige O'Brien, a master purchased in Orlando; Dale Yard, a local artist whose session was done totally with the "Memphis country sound," and Roland Eaton, the first of

several masters purchased by Enterprise from Capitol. It was released after remixing. The company also is about to release a record by Roger Hallmark, from Birmingham; is in the process of signing former Capitol artist Weldon Lane, and is about to release an LP by Eddie Bond. Future Bond sessions will be produced by Jerry Cheanut of Nashville.

Jerry Seabolt, director of the Enterprise operation, said two more artists are being signed and will be released shortly.

"It's been a matter of setting-up internally," he said, "and getting product ready. The response has been overwhelming."



BILL FARR, vice president of marketing for Polygram and past president of the Country Music Association, presents a certification of appreciation to New York Mayor Lindsay through the Hon. Phyllis Robinson, New York's Commissioner of Cultural Affairs. Earlier, through Commissioner Robinson, a proclamation had been issued for country music day at city hall.

Col. Acts in Private Showing for Distribbs

By BILL WILLIAMS

AMARILLO, Tex.—A Columbia Records promotion here for a distributor evolved from a planned two-hour show into a 5-hour-15-minute production.

CBS, at its own expense, performed at a party for Western Merchandisers, a firm with 26 salesmen in 6 western and midwestern states, in an effort to bring country music home of the distributors.

Headlining the show were Johnny Duncan, Columbia; Charlie Rich, Epic; Terry Lane, Charlie

McCoy and Lloyd Green, all of Monument, distributed by CBS.

Representing the firm were promotion managers Gene Ferguson, Columbia, and Bill Williams, Epic.

Executives from the Dallas branch of the firm and their families also were present. The show was such an overwhelming success that its length was more than doubled.

Western Merchandisers is the largest dealer in country product in that part of the nation, according to Ferguson.

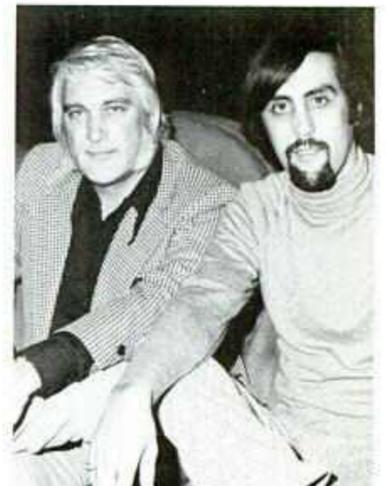
Flemish Publ. Sets 4 Songs

NASHVILLE — Bar Van de Laar, director of Gnome Music N.V., in Brussels, Belgium, has placed four songs here with local publishers.

In a swing around the world, Van de Laar has been placing masters, or providing European melodies to be utilized with U.S. lyrics.

Songs placed here were with the Glaser Brothers and with Kermit Goell, and his Great Foreign Songs publishing firm. One of the songs was composed by Paul Severs, a leading singer in Belgium.

Van de Laar, formerly with Lkuger Productions, was involved in the European release of the Cedarwood song, "Roses for Reno," distributed overseas as "Roses for Sandra," which became a big hit.



COUNTRY SINGER Charlie Rich, currently touring to promote his new Epic single, "Behind Closed Doors," is shown here with John Randolph (right), music director at WAKY Radio, Louisville, one of the first Top 40 stations to go on Charlie's new release.