

## 6,000 to Participate In 'Ole Opry' Party

NASHVILLE—Plans for WSM's 49th "Grand Ole Opry" Birthday Celebration and Disk Jockey Convention Oct. 16-20, have been revealed.

More than 6,000 persons involved in the production, promotion or distribution of country music will join artists and celebrities at the event here.

The official functions begin Wednesday, Oct. 16, with an Early Bird Blue Grass Concert, and winds up with a day at Opryland USA, the music theme park the following Sunday. But the event will be preceded by the Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament Oct. 12-13, and scores of unofficial functions.

Events of the week include invita-

tion-only parties by the performing rights organizations, the televised Country Music Assn. Awards Show Oct. 14, board meetings of the Country Music Assn. and the Country Music Foundation, and some side celebrations.

Registration cost is \$25.00, of which \$10.00 is payable to the Opry Trust Fund, and another \$15.00 to help the participating labels defray their costs. The Trust Fund, established nine years ago, is used to give financial assistance in time of need or emergency to country musicians or their families. More than a quarter-million dollars has been expended by the fund thus far.

The registration fees permit registrants access to all of the official functions, including the meals and the shows. All of these affairs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Municipal Auditorium.

Wednesday, Oct. 16—7:30 p.m.:

### It's Haggard Month Throughout the U.S.

LOS ANGELES—Capitol Records has designated September as Merle Haggard month, according to vice president and general manager of country product Frank Jones.

The month will be highlighted by Haggard's LP, "Merle Haggard And The Strangers Present His 30th Album." A major marketing campaign is planned.

Early Bird Bluegrass Concert (Opry House); 10:30 p.m.: United Talent-Shure Brothers Show (Opry House).

Thursday, Oct. 17—11:30 a.m.: WSM Luncheon & Opry Spectacular; 3:30 p.m.: CMA International Country Music Show; 7:30 p.m.: United Artists Party & Show.

Friday, Oct. 18—8:00 a.m.: MCA Records Breakfast & Show; 10:30 a.m.: Artist/DJ Tape Session #1; 12:00 noon: ABC/Dot Records Luncheon & Show; 2:30 p.m.: Art-

ist/DJ Tape Session #2; 6:30 p.m.: CMA Banquet & Show (tickets not included in registration fee. Purchased separately).

Saturday, Oct. 19—8:00 a.m.: RCA Breakfast & Show; 12:00 noon: Capitol Records Luncheon & show; 5:00 p.m.: Columbia Records Show; 9:30 p.m.: Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebration (Opry); 10:00 p.m.: Atlas Artists Bureau Dance.

Sunday, Oct. 20—10:00 a.m.: Opryland USA.

## Steel Guitarists to Meet In St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—Scotty's Music here will host the third National Steel Guitar Convention this weekend, Sept. 14-15, with some 18 artists taking part.

Displays by firms from 12 states also will be part of the event.

Among the companies taking part are Norlin Music of Chicago, U.S.A.; Guitars of Detroit; Peavey Electronics of Meridian, Miss.; Gretsch of Cincinnati; St. Louis Music Supply; Emmond Guitar of Burlington, N.C.; Steel Guitar Productions of Concord, Calif.; Mid-Land Records of St. Louis; Marlen Steels of Reidsville, N.C.; Z.B. Custom of Phoenix; Sierra Steels of Gresham, Ore.; MSA-Micro of Dallas; Ye Olde Music of Marissa, Ill.; Sho-Bud of Nashville; Goodrich Sound of Grand Haven, Mich., and N.E. Pedal Steel Guitar Assn. of Radio City, N.Y.

Representing Sho-Bud will be Shot Jackson, Dave Musgrave,

Lloyd Green, Tommy White, Julian Tharpe and Jeff Newman. Representing MSA will be Curly Chalker and Bud Carter; representing Marlen, Speedy West; representing Emmons will be Buddy Emmons; representing Sierra will be Red Rhodes; representing Beck will be Zane Beck; representing Z.B. will be Wally Murphy, Bud Hall, Jim Murphy and Tom Brumley, and representing U.S.A. will be Freeman Cowgar.

Special Spanish guitar guests will be Phil Baugh of Dallas and Chuck Thompson of Detroit.

A house band consisting of Bobby Caldwell, Freddie Pierce and Bob Regot will perform with the steel players.

A Saturday dance will be performed by Darrell McCall and the Tennessee Volunteers, with Davie Lee of WIL Radio acting as master of ceremonies.



Bob Schanz photo

AVCO ANNOUNCEMENT—Officials of Avco announce their move into country at a Nashville party. Left to right, Frank Mull, director of sales and promotion; Hugo Peritti, Dorothy Ritter, representing the state of Tennessee; Luigi Creatore, and George Richey, in charge of the Nashville office.

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