

Academy of Country Music

Vol. VI No. 5 May, 1977

THE CHRONICLE OF COUNTRY MUSIC

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF DIRECTOR — ARTIST/ ENTERTAINER — PATSY MONTANA

"As American as apple pie, as loving as the Good Samaritan — that is PATSY MONTANA — a great lady, prolific songwriter, fine trouper, tremendous songstress, and one of the most famous of the girl yodelers. Along with Elton Britt, Patsy is usually considered to have made the yodel popular." These words are from the pen of the famous author and composer, Mae Boren Axton.

Award winning Patsy Montana was the first country and western girl singer to sell a million records. The song was her own composition, "I Want To Be A Cowboy Sweetheart."

The personable Patsy who, through three decades has made over 10,000 personal appearances, starred on the WLS National Barndance out of Chicago, done a stint at WOR in New York, guested on WSM Grand Ole Opry, a regular on the Louisiana Hayride, recorded for Columbia, RCA and Decca and now with LOOK Records of London, England. She is a perennial favorite at the fairs and night club circuit.

Patsy is considered a legend in her time and her career has taken her from six weeks in Alaska, Disneyland, every state in the union (not including Hawaii) and recently completed her third tour of England and Europe. She has written over 200 published and recorded songs and her earlier recordings made with the "Prairie Ramblers" are considered collector's items.

Patsy has received 10 awards within the last seven years including the Pioneer Award from the Academy of Country Music. Among her most valued memoirs are awards of merit from three presidents. She was among eight country entertainers chosen to represent country music at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. during our Bicentennial year.

During the last few years Patsy has appeared at many colleges and universities including Moreley College in London, England.

Among Patsy's souvenirs are the four wonderful days that she rode shotgun on a stage coach with Montie Montana across the beautiful plains of Montana in 1975 camping out under the stars with coyotes howling in the distance.



PATSY MONTANA

Patsy has appeared in movies with Gene Autry and recently completed a documentary film on country music for BFA Studios, Hollywood, California.

Patsy is married to Paul E. Rose and the mother of two daughters and resides in Long Beach, CA. Patsy is very proud of her daughter Judy Rose who is making a name for herself in the singing field.

It has been said "Patsy loves people
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CHRIS O'CONNELL — DOWN HOME SUPERSTAR

By W. C. MELCHER

"Deep Within My Heart Lies A Melody," goes the old Bob Wills song, and when set to twin fiddles, rhythm guitar and a pedal steel, the legendary sound of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys was again "ON THE AIR!" at the Palomino Club when Asleep At The Wheel delivered a recent smash performance.

Active on the country circuit for several years now, Asleep takes the upbeat, happy spirit of the Texas Swing Band that revolutionized Country Music during the dark days of the Depression, mixes it with Country Standards, a little Boogie, a lot of Gospel, and has produced the award-winning sound that plays to packed houses all across the country.

The Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills' Music was just a side benefit for me, though, since I had come to see their lead female singer, Capitol Recording Artist Chris O'Connell. I had been absolutely captivated with Chris' style since first hearing her sing "Where No One Stands Alone" on one of their earliest albums and I then became determined to bring her individual status to the attention of our Academy members.

I first contacted Chris in Austin when I was in the midst of preparing a maga-
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JUNE 1, 1977, THE MEMBERSHIP DUES IN THE ACADEMY WILL BE INCREASED. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP WILL BE \$20.00 PER YEAR AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP WILL BE \$15.00 PER YEAR. INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ACADEMY, PROFESSIONAL OR GENERAL CAN BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO THE ACM, P.O. BOX 508, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Installation of the Officers and Board of Directors elected to serve the 1977-1978 term will be held on **MONDAY, MAY 16, 1977**, at the **PALOMINO CLUB** located at 6907 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, California. Admission will be \$5.00 per person and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Your hosts for this evening will be Tommy, Sherry and Billy Thomas. Be sure and attend, guests are welcome.

FOOD ... FUN ... DOOR PRIZES ... SUPER ENTERTAINMENT ...

The Country Scene As Seen By Janice

By: JANICE SMITH

In this day of a tremendous amount of superb country talent, it's still unusual to find, in one person, a combination of great song-writing ability, a near-perfect voice, with the drive to form a music company, get top musicians together, write the material, and produce a complete album, including writing the liner notes himself. But Denny Tymer did just that, and here's a young man who is destined to make a big impact on the world of country music very soon.

Denny is a native Kansan, and spent several years performing in clubs and lounges in Nebraska, The Dakotas, Minnesota, Michigan, and other areas of the Midwest. But the lure of California sunshine, coupled with the popularity of country music here, brought Denny to out midst about five years ago. He performs five nights a week, Tuesday through Saturday in the Flying Bridge Room at the Bridge Motor Inn at Oceanside, California. A few months ago, the Academy was fortunate enough to acquire Denny as a member, and Denny hopes to become acquainted with as many members as possible. He says he loves the country music business and the people that



DENNY TYMER

make it all happen.

Last summer, he went to Nashville and produced his own album, titled, "It's About Tymer" — and what an album this is. He also formed his own record company, WILWIN RECORDS (believe me, Denny will win), and the Tymer Music Company. He gathered the finest musicians Nashville has — people such as "Pig" Robbins on piano, Bobby Thompson on rhythm guitar, Peter Drake on steel, Charlie McCoy on harmonica, among other top names,

plus The Nashville Edition and The Lea Jane Singers as vocal accompaniment. Denny wrote all 10 numbers on the album, except one, which was co-written with Monte Marcoe, and produced the entire album. The back photo on the album jacket is even a self-portrait! Now you might think this gentleman is a "Jack of all trades and master of none," but you are very wrong. He's a master in all these endeavors, for this is one of the most beautiful albums I've ever heard. I'll give a brief review of it later. Denny is delighted that Chuck Sullivan is airing this fantastic work on KLAC, as well as other D.J.'s throughout the nation. Denny was Jay Lawrence's guest star on The Best In The West Show on March 19. He also appeared at the recent Radio/thon for Leukemia at the Palladium. Denny works whenever possible to help others, in benefits such as "Toys For Tots." He often sells his album at benefits and donates all the proceeds to a favorite charity. We are most fortunate to find this talented young man in our midst with a budding career, yet who takes time to help the less fortunate people along the way, and to make friends with his fans. Denny would like to hear from Academy members at P.O. Box 1669, Carlsbad, Calif. 92008 — or stop by the Bridge Motor Inn any Tuesday through

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)



"Stereocountry"
97 FM KGBS
"Meet the KGBS D.J.'s"

THURSDAY — TALENT
NIGHT

\$100 - FIRST PRIZE
\$50 - SECOND PRIZE

BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON DAILY
Top Sirloin Steak Dinner — \$2.25

"NUMBER ONE" — 11 Consecutive Years

BEST COUNTRY NIGHTCLUB AS HONORED BY ACM

- MAY 1 — TOM RUSH
MONTE MILLS & LUCKY
HORSEHOE BAND
2 — VASSAR CLEMENTS BAND
3 — TOM GEBR & MONTANA BAND
4 — JERRY REED
6-7 — THE HAGERS
13-14-15 — LOST GONZO BAND
16 — ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC
INSTALLATION
17-18-19 — ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
20-21 — JOHN STEWART
23 — JODY MILLER
24 — MISSION MOUNTAIN WOOD BAND
25 — BILL ANDERSON SHOW
with MARY LOU TURNER & PO BOYS

- JUNE — R.W. BLACKWOOD
HANK THOMPSON
DAVE & SUGAR
LA COSTA
NEW RIDERS OF THE
PURPLE SAGE
TOMMY OVERSTREET
DONNA FARGO

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TALENT SHOWCASE with Archie Francis
& Buddy Mize at 1 o'clock.

APPEARING NIGHTLY — IRA ALLEN

6907 LANKERSHIM BLVD. — N. HOLLYWOOD — (213) 765-9256

NEWS FROM THE STATIONS:



Nashville, Tenn. . . HIT's Incorporated announces the beginning of a weekly, hour-long syndicated radio show. The program, **INSIDE MUSIC CITY**, will premiere the first week of May on approximately 100 radio stations throughout the country. **INSIDE MUSIC CITY** will include conversation with and music of the top stars in country music. It will be hosted by Ty Copping, former Nashville radio personality who is now affiliated with Top Billing. The first four guests to be featured on the show are Ronnie Milsap, Barbara Mandrell, Dickey Lee and Charley Pride.

✓ ✓ ✓

Ontario, California . . . We received a nice letter and the following radio station news from Mark Williams, Program Director at K-15. Southern Cali-



fornia's new Modern Country station, K-15 in Ontario unveiled its "K-15 Medicine Wagon" in the Montclair Western Days Parade, where it won first prize in the commercial exhibits division. This was just the first of many appearances for the wagon, an authentic 1904 medicine wagon the station recently found and restored to original condition. Pictured here, K-15 Program Manager and afternoon personality, Mark Williams (on wagon), Don Boyd, morning man, Traffic Director Valorie Stitely (on wagon), Joe Daniels, evening-personality and midday-man, Bill Taylor. The K-15 air staff and various local friends easily blasted the Montclair Kiwanis club in a tug of war at the Montclair Western Days Rodeo.

✓ ✓ ✓

Tucson, Arizona . . . A big southwestern **HOWDY** from K-CUB in Tucson, Arizona. All is well with Bill-

boards choice as the number one radio station. The contest lines are ringing as usual, the last contest held was fun for all, it was called an "Offer you can refuse," the caller was given an offer of anything from \$50.00 cash to concert tickets to hit kits, or they could refuse and take the un-opened envelope which could contain anything from some of the gravel from the parking lot, broken rubber bands or a C.B. radio, a motorcycle or some other gag or nice gift. This contest was just another that makes K-CUB the station where the winners are. The K-CUB D.J.'s closed out their basketball season with a no loss season this year. They only played two games but both were played well, or as well as D.J.s can play. Tom Plant, K-CUB reporter also informed us that K-CUB helped kick off the Rodeo days with entries in the donkey derby races. One thing for sure we can see that K-CUB is really involved in Tucson's community events.

✓ ✓ ✓

Salt Lake City, Utah . . . Country Joe Flint is the new music director of KSOP-AM and FM and the new PD is Dale Lake. Dale has been with KSOP for a year as news director and DJ and Country Joe has been with KSOP for five years, he was production director and morning DJ. Country Joe would like everyone to know that the music they are playing is and always has been and always will be **COUNTRY**, he states some changes have been made but the format will remain country. Articles have appeared which stated that KSOP was changing its format and they want you to know that those were just rumors and are **FALSE** . . . KSOP is the #2 station in the Salt Lake Area and are striving to be #1 in the next ARB. The only thing that has been changed is getting the new and chart music on the air, which wasn't happening in the past. KSOP will celebrate 23 years in country music Friday, May 27 with a free concert starring Billy Armstrong and KSOP hopes to provide Salt Lake City with country music for another 23 years. Congratulations, Henry Hilton . . . Keep it country . . . We never did believe in rumors . . .

✓ ✓ ✓

Other stations heard from this month by way of playlist, newsletter, etc. were: KDJW (Dugg Collins) Amarillo, Texas; KGAY, Salem, Oregon; K-94 (Charlie Brown) in Colorado Springs, Colorado; KHEY, El Paso, Texas; KNIX, Phoenix, Arizona; WFMP, Fitchburg, Mass.; CFAC, Calgary, Canada; KNKS (J.A. Gradillas) Hanford, Ca., and WBAM, Montgomery, Ala.

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San Diego, California . . . KSON-AM 1240 recently held a promotion in conjunction with RCA Records and Tower

Record music store called "The Hitman." Listeners were asked to stop by Tower records and register or listen to KSON. Then a drawing was held to



determine the winner. The grand prize was a beautifully re-conditioned Seeburg Jukebox filled with any RCA product that the winner chose. Pictured are the winner (in white shirt) and Mason Smith of KSON-FM. KSON is currently fighting coffee inflation by giving away 1,000 pounds of coffee. It's called the "Perk Up" contest.

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We look forward to hearing from all the stations and appreciate you including us on your mailing list, if you have a new item you feel our readers will be interested in, just drop us a note to "Newsletter," Academy of Country Music, P.O. Box 508, Hollywood, California 90028.

B Of D Patsy Montana

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

and people love Patsy." She will be leaving on May 20th for an extended tour which will include Austin, Texas; Chicago and St. Louis. She will be attending the fan fair in Nashville where her fan club will have a booth.

Austin Finkenbinder (an academy member) is the president of "Mum And Me" fan club for both Patsy and her daughter Judy. Anyone interested can contact Austin at 410 E. Water St., Apt. 206, Pontiac, Ill. 67164.

(EDITORS NOTE: Patsy Montana is indeed a lady, a super entertainer and pleasure to know, if she happens to appear in your area, don't miss her, if you do, you've missed the pleasure of a lifetime.)





WAYLON JENNINGS' RCA Album "Dreaming My Dreams," has been certified as a Gold Album by the Recording Industry Association of America, based on sales in excess of 500,000 units. Waylon's latest album, "Waylon Live" is currently at the top of the Country Music charts and also is represented on the Pop charts.

With 15 musicians and singers and literally tons of equipment ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL is currently on a four-week tour of the Scandinavian Countries; Germany and England and will include performances at famed Tivoli Gardens. The Wheel was presented an award on March 20 by the Smithsonian Institute for their dedication to the performing of Western Swing Music, while a capacity house watched and cheered the ceremony.

Country Music Hall of Famer KITT Y WELLS was honored by fellow artists and friends at Top Billing, Inc. at a portrait hanging ceremony conducted in the Top Billing offices. Guests were on hand to witness the official hanging of Ms. Wells' portrait taken upon her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in October. The portrait, which is encased in lucite will hang in the reception area at Top Billing.

Rodeo superstar LARRY MAHAN has made his first appearance as a country and western music entertainer in the same unique manner that has made him a dominant figure in the world of rodeo today. Mahan chose the popular nightspot Mr. Lucky's in Phoenix, Arizona for his debut. The six

time world champion all around cowboy staged his own "one man grand entry" at the opening when he rode on stage on the back of Mr. Texi a 2000 pound Texas Longhorn. Mahan was singing "Mama's Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys." Club owner Bob Sikoro said, "Larry was great, we were packed both nights and had to turn people away." Larry's particularly excited about a two-week engagement at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, May 10-22.

JUDY ROSE pictured with T.G. SHEPPARD, Judy will be appearing at the Ban-Dar Club in Ventura on May 18.



at the Sandalwood in Modesto on May 20 and 21 and on May 27 and 28 she will appear at the Country Side Club in San Luis Rey. If you have the opportunity to see one of these shows, we are sure you will enjoy Judy's show.

GEORGE MANZ, drummer, band leader of the Country Stones is now booking all the entertainment at the Country Side in Oceanside and has backed this past month, Joe & Rose Lee Maphis, Donnie Rhors and Carl Albert. Appearing in May at the Country Side will be Claire Courtney, Jae Judy Kay, Lakey Brothers, George Nirchel III and Judy Rose. George has also added Carol Randolph to do Lead Singing with

the Band. Lee Feltner is on Lead Guitar and Dennis Terry plays bass.

True Records has released the first CLAUDE KING single for the label, "Cotton Dan." This single marks King's return to the recording scene after an absence of more than two years.

JESSI COLTER is busy touring the south and getting ready for the release of her new LP on Capitol, which is gospel oriented. The LP will ship in late April or early May.

STONEY EDWARDS is still scouting Texas for musician to be in his all black country band. Have any ideas?

RAY GRIFF is back in Nashville resting after a five-week tour of Canada. While in Canada he guested on all the CBC shows that show the artists performing around Canada.

FREDDIE HART is busy touring the country promoting the release of his new single "Thank God She's Mine."

MEL McDANIELS, "All The Sweet" and Kenny Dale, "Bluest Heartache Of The Year" are flying out to Pueblo, Colorado May 5 and 6 to perform at KPUB's Anniversary Celebration.

BARBARA FAIRCHILD just concluded a three-week engagement at the Landmark co-headlining with Roy Clark. Barbara has a new hit, "Let Me Love You Once Before You Go."

Request lines to country radio stations have been filled lately with callers wanting to hear STELLA PARTON's new Elektra single, "I'm Not That Good At Goodbye." It wasn't too unusual when Barry Grant of WIRK Radio in West Palm Beach, Fla. picked up the phone to hear a caller requesting . . . "that new Stella Parton single" . . . What was unusual about the call was WHO it was . . . The caller requesting the song was non other than TAMMY WYNETTE.

Rod "CB SAVAGE" Hart may have another big hit record with his new single called, "Arizona Flash And Cloudy." This is on Little Richie Plantation Records and distributed by Shelby Singleton out of Nashville. The song was also written by Rod as was CB Savage.

The International Fan Club Organization is gearing up for its annual dinner and show to be held on WEDNESDAY, June 8th in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. LORETTA

(Continued on Page 5, Column 1)



PATIO PIZZA

N' CHICKEN TOO

"Johnny Meeks"

&
The Tantamounts

Appearing Wednesday thru Sunday

Talent Contest — Wednesday Nite

Dining
Dancing
Cocktails

1717 Los Angeles St., Simi Valley 1-805-527-5555

What's Happening

(Continued from Page 4, Column 3)

LYNN a founder and prime mover in the organization will headline this year's show which caps off a decade of top notch presentations, coordinated by IFCO's Co-Presidents Loudilla, Loretta and Kay Johnson of Wild Horse, Colorado. Buck Owens, Mike Lunsford, Rod Hart, David Wills, Johnny Russell, Joe Stampley and Margo Smith are among those already set to appear. Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Billy Parker of KVOO-Tulsa, Okla. and Jack Reno of WLW-Cincinnati, Ohio.

* * *

SHARON LEIGHTON, country artist, appeared in the 20th Annual Santa Fe Springs Parade on April 23. (We saw Sharon at a recent membership meeting and boy, does she look good, we've missed her and we hope she and MARVIN will be around more often now, we are really glad you are feeling well Marvin and look forward to seeing you soon.)

* * *

Just had a phone call from BOB JACKSON, he is program director at KRAM in Las Vegas. Boy, I hope I have those call letters right . . .

* * *

This month we received "NEWS-LETTERS" from the following associations, fan clubs, etc. and would like to take the time to mention them and thank them for remembering us: The European Country Music Association; Tri-Son News (Loudilla, Loretta and Kay Johnson); Trail News (Norman Lipkus, New York); Pete Drake Productions; "Mum 'n Me" (Austin Finkenbinder) and Broadcast Newsletter from Columbia, we really appreciate hearing from all of you.

* * *

DOLLY PARTON just completed a stint at the Roxy in Los Angeles and all who saw here fell in love with her and her music. "Who says Dolly's leaving COUNTRY, all one had to do was see her show and know that "that just isn't so" . . .

* * *

HOWDY GLENN will headline at "Gilleys" in Pasadena, Texas, June 17 and 18th.

* * *

PATSY MONTANA has returned from a 10-day tour of northern California. She broke house records for four days at the Sandalwood in Modesto. SRO for two days in Hayward at the West-40. She appeared at the San Diego State folk festival for the third time on April 22-23.

* * *

Ad-Korp Records informs us that DONNIE ROHRS has a new release entitled "Dang You Whiskey."

1st ANNUAL MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL



Dateline: Nashville, Tennessee

Stars of Country, Blue Grass, Folk and Gospel Music along with amateur singers and musicians and thousands of fans will converge on Mountain Music Park-Shortts Gap, Virginia, July 1st, 2nd & 3rd for the First Annual Mountain Music Festival — three days of music and fun. The talent contest is open to everyone. Contestants may bring their own band or use the excellent staff musicians for back-up.

Ten finalist will be selected by secret ballot. Each will receive a beautiful trophy pictured above with country music stars — record producers Johnny Dollar, Bud Logan and George Kent. In addition to the beautiful engraved trophies the first, second and third place winners will also be presented with these prizes; First place will receive \$3,000.00 in production and promotion work; Second place will receive \$200.00 in cash while third place will receive \$100.00 in cash.

The festival will have heavy press and music media coverage, very important exposure for the new singers and musicians trying to break into the business.

Country Music and Blue Grass stars already booked to appear on the evening shows include: Carl Story, Peggy Sue, Sonny Wright, The Hot Mud Family, Larry Sparks, The Spirits Of Blue Grass, The Virginia Drifters, The Lonesome Ramblers, The Virginia Mountain Boys and The Outdoor Plumbing Company.

The judges will be Bud Logan, George Kent, Johnny Dollar, Dick Shuey and Bob Smallwood. Mountain Music Park is located just north of Shortts Gap on Route 629. The park has camper hook-ups, first aid and sanitary facilities to accommodate 70,000 with numerous motels nearby.

Contestant entry forms and information can be obtained by calling or writing: Link Smith, 205 Hull Street, Richlands, Va 24641. Area Code 703-964-2830.

WRN

ANDY AND THE SWINGERS

By LISE HOULE
Ottawa, Canada

One would think that the Ottawa Valley would be a difficult market in which to make it in the country music field, situated as it is at the junction of English and French Canada. But for one area native, it's been a rewarding experience. Andy Drouin or Orleans, a predominantly francophone community, has been singing and playing his fiddle and guitar on the valley circuit for 24 years now, since he was only 19 years of age.

He's been something of a hit on both sides of the Ontario-Quebec border, especially with his new group, "Andy And The Swingers," a quartet formed about two years ago, which also includes local boys Joe Paquette, 27, on lead and bass; Leo Nelson, 30, rhythm and vocals and Ray Laverne, also 27, on drums.

Andy is the lead singer, performing in both English and French, although he admits, he leans to the traditional American country songs. "English Canadians" he noted "don't take to French country music as well as Quebecers take to English songs. Too much French," he says wistfully, "kills the audience."

He says he likes the old tunes — his heroes are Ray Price and Hank Williams — but he prefers the new beat, describing the Swingers' rhythms as "country rock."

"The old stuff is too sad," he says, "a hotel crowd likes to stamp its feet." Another indication that Andy and the Swingers move with the times is Andy's use of comedy in his sets.

Andy has thought on occasion about making records . . . he even wrote a number once that he was sure could have been a hit single with the right promotion, entitled "Canadian Skidoosers," but a salesman by profession, he says his music is mostly a hobby and he's content doing gigs close to home.



Wally Thor sez: "Get Ta Truckin'"

TRUCKMASTER

(213) 699-9911

The Country Scene

(Continued from Page 2, Column 3)

Saturday in Oceanside and catch his act. You'll be glad you did.

"It's About Tymer"

WLWn 20001 Stereo

(also available in stereo 8 track or cassette)

In my humble opinion, every song in this album is excellent.

Side A contains: (cover me with your) **BLANKET OF LOVE**. This could very well become a hit, with terrific lyrics, set to beautiful background music and sung with clarity and meaning.

ALONE is nice, easy listening.

WE'RE LIVING IN HARMONY is a bouncy tune, very pretty, and I like the good enunciation. D.J.'s should like this one, too.

KEEP POLISHING ME, BABY is another one I would pick to hit. Charlie McCoy's harmonica stands out delightfully here.

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU is simply a beautiful pure country ballad that sounds much like Marty Robbins. The take-off is especially nice. As I see it, Denny's voice is a cross between Marty Robbins and Jim Reeves, which puts him in very heavy company.

Side B: **EASY TO SAY GOODBYE** is o.k. — I think people appreciate simple lyrics that tell a story.

SUNSHINE GIRL is one that Denny is excellent on, and fans of Charlie Rich would like this, since it's definitely in the "easy listening" class.

(you prove them wrong) **TIME AND TIME AGAIN**. Heavy lyrics, great — pure country at it's best, and could become a big hit.

I'D WANT TO BE A PART OF THE SAME is such a pretty love song. If this doesn't get the girl — nothing will!

I HOPE I HIT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ALL GREEN. This is my favorite of all. Disc jockeys, take note — if you like "country," you'll love this one. It's pure country, with a message, and a bouncy country beat that could easily establish Denny as a nationally known artist.

I listen to literally hundreds of singles and albums, but this one has some especially excellent material, sung by Denny, who's voice is, in my opinion, one of the best anyplace. There's not a dirty song or suggestive lyrics in this album.

Our sincere condolences to the family of **EDDIE MILLER** who "went to heaven" on Sunday, April 10th in Nashville, Tenn. Eddie was a great songwriter and a gentleman, he was one of the original members of the Academy of Country Music, he will be missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

SONNY JAMES IN PRISON IN PERSON



NASHVILLE — Columbia Records has announced that Sonny James' forthcoming album was recently recorded at The Tennessee State Prison. With this special album project, James will participate in a recording industry first: the album's session musicians are exclusively inmates of a prison. James will be the only non-inmate musician appearing on his album. To be entitled, "Sonny James In Prison In Person," James and his "Tennessee State Prison Band" recorded the entire lp within the walls of that institution. The album project was conceptualized during one of the Columbia artist's visits to the prison. Through Warden Vinson Thompson, James discovered numerous inmates who had musical abilities. He agreed to perform at the prison if a group of the inmates would join him as musicians during that appearance. Rehearsals followed. James believed the concept album was feasible. Commenting upon this industry first James stated: "I've rarely enjoyed myself more than during the rehearsals we've had with these musicians once they knew we were planning to make this album. The genuine feeling and locale should be involving for the participants and listeners alike." "Sonny James In Prison In Person" is scheduled for release in May.

NEW MEMBERS

In March the following persons became members of the ACM: Linda Viers, Carson, Ca.; Craig M. Mosse, Glendale, Ca.; Mary Crabtree, Redondo Beach, Ca.; Dennis Barney, Citrus Heights, Ca.; Sherry Lane Jackson, Highland, Ca.; Lee Feltner, Highland, Ca.; Kathleen Kruse, San Gabriel, Ca.; Helen Hudson, Santa Monica, Ca.; Ray Hunton, Torrance, Ca.; Ann S. Mallory, Inglewood, Ca.; Paul S. Webb, Northridge, Ca.; Gerrie L. Depew, Sacramento, Ca.; Terrance W. Morrissey, Hacienda Hgts., Ca.; Todd Robinson, Mission Viejo, Ca.; Rebecca Segal, Beverly Hills, Ca.; Harry Charlton, Rialto, Ca.; Dan Bourgoise, Burbank, Ca.; Rose Marie Velarde, Lakeview, Ca.; Eddie Sacks, San Bernardino, Ca.; Tim Hayfield, Van Nuys, Ca.; Terry Lamont, Los Angeles, Ca.; Jane Quisenberry, Sherman Oaks, Ca.; Sandy Kent, North Hollywood, Ca.; Levy Walker, Los Angeles, Ca.; Larry Krutsinger, (Capitol Records) St. Claire, Mi.; Rupert Perry, (Capitol Records) Los Angeles, Ca.; Joy Dugan (Capitol Records) Dallas, Texas; Pamela Horton (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Eddie Kilroy (Playboy) Nashville,

Tenn.; Jeannie Larson (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Jess Levitt (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Joanne-Marie Switzler (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Deanne Olson (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Gloria Nicholson (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Marc Nathan (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Cynthia Ann Davis (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Jay Butler (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Maria Kilroy (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Connie Geller (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Sandra Burmah (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Eli Bird (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Allison Bedell (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.; Jackie Straka (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn. and Nick Hunter (Playboy) Nashville, Tenn.

New members for the month of April are: Linda Cassady, Rushville, Ill.; John Gillespie, La Puente, Ca.; James F. Bell, Diamond Bar, Ca.; Mel Shannon, Mira Loma, Ca.; Bobby Bee, Murrieta, Ca.; David M. Cook, Burbank, Ca.; Lenny Toones, So. Pasadena, Ca.; Dennis V. Terry, Redlands, Ca.; Alfred M. Green, Canoga Park, Ca.; John McFarland, Sherman Oaks, Ca.; William C. Melcher, Woodland Hills, Ca.

CHRIS O'CONNEL — DOWN HOME SUPERSTAR

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

zine article on a so-called Country/Pop "Superstar." I soon found that there are, indeed, two kinds of talent — some are manufactured by expensive promotional campaigns and the resulting entertainers are, therefore, very fragile, unapproachable, bionic and, in a word, professional phonies. Then there are the "natural talents," and these are the people who can stand up against any situation, who can sing in a club on short notice, without the necessity of over dubbing, canned applause tracks and other mechanical gimmicks. Chris is one of these — a natural talent. She's had no formal vocal training and delivers her message from her heart — every timbre in her voice and every movement on stage shows that she is a classic professional because she involves her total self in her words and music.

Despite six years of whirlwind touring, estimated at in excess of 1½ million road miles, Chris has managed to retain not only her stamina but also her enthusiasm and her down home congeniality. Originally from Arlington, Virginia, a hardly countrified suburb of the Nation's Capital, Chris and another girl formed a group and played local shows while still in high school. After graduation, she spent a few restless months doing ordinary kinds of things and then stumbled upon an ad in the Washington paper — a country group was looking for a female lead singer. This seemed to be a Godsend. Her hopes were shattered, however, when she found that they had already begun negotiations with a wandering, wispy Alabama girl named Emmylou Harris but she auditioned anyway, just to make the trip worthwhile. In true story book fashion, Chris and her \$13 guitar were hired on the spot. The group soon adopted the name Asleep At The Wheel, moved on to "an old shack in West Virginia" then to Northern California, and finally settled down in Austin. Austin was not only a central Country-circuit

location for them but was, I think, the unwitting birthplace of their now famous blend of Uptown Country Music.

Chris picks a little banjo but she is



CHRIS O'CONNELL

primarily featured on rhythm guitar and shares the vocal lead spot with Ray Benson, a true showman and musical genius. Although she is a talented writer, she prefers to spend her free time interpreting music, so, as she told me, "when I sing it I want it to sound different than ever before." And so, she places herself in her songs, she lives her music. And, in this most intimate style, she captures your heart and mind — she shares with you, her awe of the place "Where No One Stands Alone," and you encounter, with her, the feeling that underlies "Last Letter." These and other classics are Chris', now and forever, because, with her soulful interpretation, she has captivated their feeling. And, as she had hoped, she has delivered them like they had never been sung before.

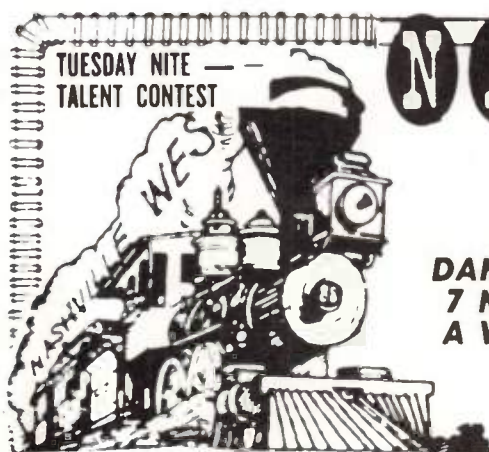
I believe that an entertainer, a good one like my friend Chris, is a very sensitive person, inspired by all she has

seen, all she has touched, all she has heard, and all she has felt. Chris says that she was inspired most of all by Patsy Cline, one of the most sensitive Country singers of all, and by the early works of Loretta Lynn, Connie Smith, Dinah Washington, and Helen Humes, Count Basie's replacement for Billie Holliday. Oh Yes, I can perhaps detect some part of all these greats when I study Chris carefully. But there is no one like Chris. For Chris is inspired by all she has touched and she has touched the soul of everyone she has met. And, if I dare say, as she offers the inspirational "Where No One Stands Alone" she seems to reach out to touch the very outstretched hand of God himself.

I learned a lot from Chris that evening — about our music, about the supposedly glamorous but hectic life inside a private coach during a long tour of one night stands. I'd met a totally unaffected young girl who has dedicated her life to Country Music. A girl who can beat me silly at pinball. A girl who I hope I talked out of taking "just one or two singing lessons." A "down-home" girl who blushed when she told me that her once skeptical parents are "so proud" of her. A girl who asked me to ask you to help us "Keep it Country" — Please, let's not ever lose it." A humble, down to earth, down-home superstar who brought the house down that night — this is what I experienced and this is Chris O'Connell.

POPULARITY POLL AWARDS

The 11th Annual Music City News Popularity Poll Awards program originally scheduled to be held in conjunction with the International Fan Club Organizations Banquet at Fan Fair has been changed to Wednesday June 8, from 1-3:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency in downtown Nashville. Tickets for the event are \$1.00 each and proceeds will be contributed to the ACE Trust Fund. Tickets are tax deductible and will be issued on a first come, first served basis.



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4th Annual Hank Williams Memorial

The fourth annual Hank Williams Memorial Celebration will be held Sunday, June 5, 1977, beginning at 10:00 A.M. and lasting all day.

The event is held at Hank's birthplace, in the tiny community of Mt. Olive, near Georgiana, Ala.

Charlie McCoy, Lamar Morris, Jim Owen, Ron Taylor and the Country Brand, The Wayfarers, among others, will be performing this year. The highlight of the day should be when Hank's original band, The Drifting Cowboys, take the stage.

The Hank Williams Memorial Association stages the event annually to honor the world famous Country Music Artist-Composer. The outdoor celebration is expected to draw 10,000 fans to the Hank Williams Memorial Park where a new, spacious bandstand and bathroom facilities are being erected and will be ready for use.

Adults will pay one dollar admittance, children under 12 will be admitted free. Campers and picnicing is allowed. Concessions are available. Any further information can be obtained by contacting Chris Gibson, Rt. 1, Brantley, Ala. 36009 or telephone area code (205) 527-8986.

PRIDE, DAVE & SUGAR PROMOTION TOUR HUGE SUCCESS

RCA Record artists Charley Pride and Dave & Sugar have just completed a three-day, three-city promotion tour. The tour to Chicago, Cleveland and Atlanta, was made to acquaint radio station personnel, from all formats, and retail and press representatives with Charley Pride and Dave & Sugar's music. Charley also took this opportunity to present selections from his latest RCA lp, "She's Just An Old Love Turned Memory," that includes the chart-soaring title song (which shot to the #1 spot in the billboard country charts the week the tour was in progress), as well as Charley's last #1 hit, "A Whole Lotta Things To Sing About." Coincidentally, Dave & Sugar's latest single, "Don't Throw It All Away," reached the #8 spot on Billboard's country charts the same week, and has also entered Billboard's "easy listening" charts.

The three-city tour began in Chicago where Charley appeared on ABC-TV's "AM Chicago." He later visited radio stations WJJD and WMAQ with Dave & Sugar. WVON, Chicago's r&b station, after seeing Charley on "AM Chicago," requested Charley visit their station. The result was a half-hour on-the-air interview and the playing of two cuts,

("The Hunger" and "Get Up Off Your Good Intentions") from Charley's latest album, on the air. Later that evening a cocktail reception was held at the Starlight Inn, where Charley and Dave & Sugar met and entertained representatives of various radio stations, retail accounts and members of the press.

The second and third days of the promotion were spent in Cleveland and Atlanta, where Charley and Dave & Sugar spent the daylight hours visiting radio stations and doing interviews, and the evenings performing in the mini-concerts. Representatives from radio stations, retail record accounts and the press, were present at Cleveland's mini-concert, which was held in the main ballroom of the Marriott Inn.

Atlanta's mini-concert at Le Fevre Studios was video taped by WSB-TV for a 1-hour documentary on Charley and Dave & Sugar. Present in Atlanta were representatives of the national press, local and regional radio stations, and local and regional record accounts.

Following the Atlanta concert, the complete Pride show left Le Fevre's Studios in police escorted limos to perform before 2,000 people at a birthday party for Georgia's Lt. Gov. Zell Miller, at the Silver Saddle Club.

Charley was so pleased with the success of the promotion tour, he decided to accompany Dave & Sugar to Denver, where they were scheduled to appear at the 4th annual Cinderella City-KERE Radio Country Fair. Over 10,000 people at the Cinderella Shopping Center were treated to an unscheduled surprise appearance by Charley. The overwhelming reception Charley and Dave & Sugar received in Chicago, Cleveland and Atlanta, was repeated in Denver, giving a fitting ending to a most successful 4 days.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMS

THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC HAS ON HAND SOME AWARDS SOUVENIR PROGRAMS, THEY ARE ON SALE THRU THE ACADEMY OFFICE. \$2.50 (INCLUDES POSTAGE AND HANDLING) IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OF THESE AWARDS PROGRAM BOOKS FROM THIS YEARS SHOW, PLEASE SEND YOUR CASHIERS CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR THE NUMBER OF BOOKS YOU WISH TO THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC, P.O. BOX 508, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA. (Please make all checks payable to the Academy of Country Music).

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