

JANUARY 1966

50c

Country Music
LIFE

- **Buck Owens**
- **Skeeter Davis**
- **Bobby Barnett**
- **Tex Ritter**



Bobby Barnett

The Entire Staff
of

Country Music Life

Extends

Best Wishes

for the

New Year

JANUARY 1966

FRANK HARRIS
Editor and Publisher

LAURA FAIRBANK
Assistant Editor

RUTH CHARON
MARY ANN COOPER
BEA & RED WILCOX
TEXAS JIM COOPER
Associate Editors

FRANK BLAKE
Art Director

JAMES E. HARRIS
Advertising Manager

R. E. CAULFIELD
Circulation Manager

8 *News*

FEATURE STORIES

12 *Buck Owens . . . As I Know Him*

16 *Tex Ritter*

18 *Lorene Mann*

19 *Billy Martin*

24 *Skeeter Davis*

28 *Bobby Barnett*

32 *Warner Mack*

TELEVISION

20 *The Melody Ranch Show*

34 *The Jim and Jesse Show*

DEPARTMENTS

5 *Ten Top Tunes*

6 *Tips From The Top*

6 *Nashville Notes*

7 *Midwestern Notes*

7 *Southeastern Notes*

31 *Fan Clubs*

39 *Where The Stars Are Shining*

ON THE COVER



Bobby Barnett, billed as "America's Newest Star," is on our cover this month. See story on page 28.

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE is published monthly at Orange, California, P. O. Box 2366, El Modena Station by Country Music Life Publications, telephone (714) 538-8873. Sold by subscription only. One year \$5.00. Two years \$9.00. Canada and overseas, \$2.00 additional. Second class postage entered at Orange, California. Editorial content may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. Copyright 1965, Country Music Life Publications.

**Next
Month
In**



**JIMMIE
DEAN**

**CONNIE
SMITH**

**PORTER
WAGONER**

and many other exciting stories, news and articles plus our regular departments, such as "Tips From The Top," "Nashville Notes," "Where The Stars Are Shining," etc.

editorial

"I resolve" . . . the time has come again to make New Year resolutions. Usually to make them on the first of January, and break them on the second. Once you have broken a resolution, you can forget it until next January. However, if your convictions are strong enough, they can last. If you can keep your resolutions long enough, until they become a habit, or part of your normal thinking, then you have a successful resolution.

I RESOLVE: To present to you, each and every month, a magazine that is the finest in the "Country" field.

I RESOLVE: To report the news as accurately as possible, so you may rely on it as absolute fact.

I RESOLVE: To keep Country Music Life a clean, wholesome publication so its contents will never offend or embarrass anyone.

I RESOLVE: To keep Country Music Life on the plane that it was intended...for the Country Music fans and entertainers, and not to attempt to publish a literary "work of Art."

I RESOLVE: To play no favorites in featuring different artists - to feature those that the public wants to know about, or who merits the publicity due to national hit records, awards, etc.

I RESOLVE: To devote some space in every issue of Country Music Life to help publicize "up and coming" artists whom the public has a right to know about.

I RESOLVE: To feature and publicize only those worthy of such publicity, and to never pass on such a judgement without examining both sides of the coin.

I RESOLVE: To never degrade my own editorial morals due to the wishes of an advertiser.

I RESOLVE: To do everything in my power, both as a publisher and an individual, to constantly strive to upgrade the Country Music Industry.

I stated that resolutions were made to be broken . . . however, the resolutions that I have made above are convictions . . . firmly rooted. I resolve not to let them be broken.



**John W. Stephenson,
Songwriter and President
of "COWTOWN Records"**

YES, WRITERS & ARTISTS HAVE SENT IN SONGS AND TAPE MASTERS AS FAR AWAY AS .. GERMANY .. FOR RELEASE UNDER THE "COWTOWN" LABEL.

WADE JACKSON (of GERMANY) SENT IN A MASTER OF TWO SONGS ENTITLED "SEVEN KINDS OF LOVE" & "FATHER TIME AND MOTHER NATURE".

JUNE BALLARD of ALASKA HAS ONE PUBLISHED BY LIBERTY STATE MUSIC & LISTED ON THIS PAGE ENTITLED "ROSALINDA."

OTHER SONG TITLES ARE: "THE GIRL FROM THE UPPER CLASS" by THOMAS W. MARTIN of MISSISSIPPI and "CRUEL LOVE" by HETTY WADLOW from MISSOURI.

SONGWRITERS ... WE ARE STILL LOOKING, AS WE NEED LYRICS AND COMPLETE SONGS FOR COMMERCIAL RECORDING ON THE ... "COWTOWN RECORD COMPANY", SO LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

REMEMBER, YOUR SONG WILL NEVER BE POPULAR (MUCH LESS A HIT) WITHOUT BEING ON COMMERCIAL RECORDS.

**WRITE FOR INFORMATION TODAY TO:
JOHN W. STEPHENSON
A & R DEPT.
P.O. BOX 706, COWTOWN RECORDS
AVERY, TEXAS 75554**

NOTE: ARTISTS, YOUR 7 1/2 I.P.S. TAPES WANTED!!

● OUR DREAM HOUSE

**IRVING BURNETT
JOHN W. STEPHENSON**
I built our dream house
So many times before
Complete with flowers and blue-
birds 'round the door
I laid a firm foundation
The everlasting kind
I fastened the parts together with
true love on my mind.

I built our dream house and then
it all came true
I carried you in, it seemed that it
was just made for two
It was our own paradise, we furn-
ished it with love
We walked down the road to-
gether
With a big bright moon above.

I built our dream house
So we have our love to share
I'm always happy, for I will
find you there
When I come home it's heaven
And know our dreams come true
It means the whole wide world to me
Our dream house and you.

© Copyright 1965 by Liberty State
Music. All Rights Reserved. Print-
ed in U.S.A.

● HAUNTED SCHOOL

**JOHN W. STEPHENSON
GROVER BANKS**
Haunted school, with a big
bad man
He filled the teacher's heart
with fear
He floated 'round thru the air
But he was really sick and
scared.

I went to a new school today
Deep down in sleepy hollow
glade
Strangest fellow you ever seen
Like balls of fire his eyes did
gleam.

Haunted school, I've come here
to stay
And no haunt will drive me
away
His eyes gleamed in glassy sheen
Like a witch he was long and
lean.

With two big horns upon his
head
I've come to school and I will
stay
And no haunt will drive me away
While he mumbled his eyes did
blaze.

© Copyright 1965 by Liberty State
Music. All Rights Reserved. Print-
ed in U.S.A.

BRYTE RECORDS

THE BEST IN COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC

\$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

ORDER DIRECT — YES, WE SHIP C.O.D.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ☐ | BOOK UPON A SHELF | BOBBY BOYLE |
| ☐ | DEAR MA | WERTH BECKER |
| ☐ | WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE | MARY MADISON |
| ☐ | COUNTRY GOSPEL ALBUM | PHEBEL WRIGHT |
| ☐ | FRIDAY BLUES | HOWARD COLLINS |
| ☐ | DOGGONE THESE HEARTACHES | CHUCK STACY |
| ☐ | LITTLE ROSE | JIMMIE HOLT |
| ☐ | TOMMY CURTIS GOSPEL ALBUM | |
| ☐ | STOP ACCUSING ME | ORANGE BLOSSOM BOYS |
| ☐ | COUNTING MY TEARDROPS | RUSTY RAMSEY |
| ☐ | COUNTRY GOSPEL E.P. | THE PAYNES |
| ☐ | I WALKED AWAY FROM HEAVEN | TIM TRAVALL |
| ☐ | MEXICALI ROSE | RED COLWELL |
| ☐ | GLAD I FOUND JESUS | THE GOSPEL-AIRES |
| ☐ | ANGEL MIND-DEVIL FACE | FRANK DARRIS |

Dee jay copies available

Artists and writers sending material
for evaluation enclose \$1.00

Send for our
"GUIDE TO SUCCESS" — 50¢

BRITE STAR RECORD COMPANY
Newbury, Ohio

LOS ANGELES' LARGEST COUNTRY
& WESTERN NIGHT CLUB



CURRENTLY APPEARING

Red Rhodes

AND THE DETOURS

6907 LANKERSHIM BLVD.
NO. HOLLYWOOD
P. O. — 5 9256

VISIT OUR STEAK & STEIN ROOM

TEN TOP TUNES

1



MAKE THE WORLD GO AWAY
Eddy Arnold—RCA Victor 8679

6



TAKE ME
George Jones—Musicor 1117

2



**MAY THE BIRD OF PARADISE
FLY UP YOUR NOSE**
Little Jimmy Dickens—RCA Victor 8679

7



WHITE LIGHTNIN' EXPRESS
Roy Drusky—Mercury 72471

3



BUCKAROO
Buck Owens—Capitol 5517

8



GIDDYUP GO
Red Sovine—Starday 737

4



IF I TALK TO HIM
Connie Smith—RCA Victor 8663

9



HELLO VIETNAM
Johnny Wright—Decca 31816

5



IT'S ANOTHER WORLD
Wilburn Bros.—Decca 31819

10



KANSAS CITY STAR
Roger Miller—Smash 1998

TIPS FROM THE

TOP

By
**BUCK
OWENS**



"Tips From The Top" is primarily for the benefit of new and "up and coming" entertainers who are anxious to learn more about this wonderful Country Music "Show Business."

You've probably heard that success in this country music business depends on a combination of hard work and good luck. Well, that's true of course, but it leaves a lot unsaid.

People will come along and advise you to channel your efforts in the direction of recordings. Get a contract with a small label, and if your record stirs up a bit of noise in your home area, the major labels will have to sit up and take notice. And if you take a look at history, you'll see that most of your top stars had to start out on relatively unknown labels and work their way up to the majors. It's the same way in sports. A baseball or football player has his beginnings on his high school and college teams, then enters the minor leagues, and if he's very, very good he makes it into the majors.

Of course, what nobody thinks to tell you about this business of working your way up, is that there are thousands of other guys also on little labels, and each one of them also wants to be noticed by the right people—so your record has to be just a little bit better than average, or even your best friend won't be impressed for very long.

That record that's "just a little bit better than average" is no accident. You don't get it by the "now I have enough money to pay for a session and all I need is a couple of new songs" method. With the help of your manager, it usually takes at least several hours of listening to material, to weed out the songs that fit your particular style, personality, etc.—and even at that, it doesn't automatically mean the song is a hit, just because it fits you.

It's a pretty expensive proposition to record a mediocre, or poor, song just because "Mother wrote it for me." For that matter, you may have gotten something from a major publishing company, written by a well-known songwriter, that hasn't a chance in the world of making a hit. In fact, you can be pretty sure that no big publisher is going to offer a hit song to an unknown singer, except maybe by accident. Unknowns get what's left over, the songs that have already been turned down by the bigger names.

As you can see, it's seldom easy to find that first hit song. Your best bet is to write it yourself, if you have that kind of talent.

continued on page 27

Nashville

NOTES



By
PAUL AND RUTH CHARON

Moving pictures, full length, are enjoying busy days in Nashville, this winter. A dramatic addition to our scene, to be completed this summer will be: a complete, modern, movie and sound studio, located within 25 minutes from downtown. This was reported by Preston Collins, Hillous Buttrum, Vince Youmans and Dale Ankers, producer and assistant, director and cameraman for the full length color movie "Music City U.S.A."

The corporation in charge of the new studio is a separate company from Gemini Productions which produced this movie. This cinema to be released in January. Stars, T. Tommy Cutrer, Webb Pierce, The Wilburns, Loretta Lynn, Dave Dudley, Jean Shepard, Charlie Louvin, Jimmy Newman, Warner Mack, Lorene Mann, Justin Tubb, Gordon Terry, Autry Inman, the Osborne Brothers, Bob Jennings, Wayne Haas, Hillous Buttrum and His Music City All Stars, and the Sudie Callaway singers. There on the scenes myself, it was obvious that these folks know what they are doing! Reports have it from the harshest critics on Record Row that this is the best movie made here yet.

Veteran Hollywood producer, Ron Ormand, has settled in this city, overflowing with plans for movie making. He produced "Forty Acre Feud" and is now in the process of grooming Gordon Terry, Rita Faye and Snake Richards for stardom. Ron has established a company named "Screen Arts Music & Management." Walter Haynes will be in charge of the motion picture division. In a luncheon conference with Ormand, Terry and Bill Gernert, I got a small inkling of what tremendous artistic senses are necessary to superb film making. Gernert did the set designing for both movies mentioned above.

Congratulations to Leon McAuliffe and the Cimarron Boys on their 20th year in show business. Long time manager Don Thompson has left him for fishing. Don is now "Captain" of the Rocky Branch Marina on beautiful Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas. We visited with Leon in December when he was in town doing a show—he flies all over in that plane of his.

the Orient. Frances had been with D.J. Carl Tipton at WMTS with his Mid-State Playboys. Carl's wife, Sophie is the other attractive girl singer on the show.

Columbia's great fiddler, Buddy Durham, and his family are well settled in Nashville now. He works the road with his lively act and local TV spots.

Nashville's first stereo station with Country Music is WNFO FM — I say it is a delight to the ears. The

continued on page 27

Midwest

NOTES

By

MARY ANN COOPER

Hello and Happy 1966!

A call for news to WHOW's Jack Hayden a few minutes ago brought delightful information of a new C&W television show! Uncle Johnny Barton will host the program which will feature "Cornbelt Country Style" gang, Junior Garner and The Sangamon Valley Boys, Mary Blue, the Arkansas Travelers, and others. All are well known names to Illinois fans. So far, arrangements have been made with Springfield's WICS-TV and Channel 2 in Terre Haute, Ind. for the Saturday evening show.

Radio Station WHOW (Clinton, Ill.) also possesses recording equipment that has turned out some fine quality record releases within the past year or so. Watch for new one by popular Indianapolis C&W D.J. Bernie Waldon.

WAAP, Peoria's all C&W station, has become WXCL under new management and have added to their staff Jack Barlow, whose Dial recording of "I Love Country Music" made quite a stir in C/W recently.

Understand that Chris Lane's "American Swing Around" will be shown by the ABC-TV network as a supplement to the Jimmy Dean Show. Don't know when this is to happen, but from all reports of Lane's viewers, when it does everyone's in for quite a treat!

WJJD's Honest John Trotter celebrated his 37th(?) birthday December 3 by being the first to spin his very own Musicor record, "The Square." I must be a square—I cried!

The western part of the Midwest has its Hap Peebles, and the eastern section of the Midwest has Dick Blake. Well, it was this way! Now it seems both of them are booking shows all over the place — the biggest lineups of country talent you ever saw in all the big cities! We usually manage to see Dick in Indianapolis and St. Louis, which he arranges with Hubert Long's Talent Agency in Nashville. This gives me an opportunity to mention a very sweet young lady who just signed with Long. We think Wilma Burgess is destined to become one of the top female artists in the very near future. Her Decca release "Baby" is doing well in country music and is also being heard on pop stations.

Also, I want to thank Dick Blake and Hubert Long for an introduction via big shows in these two cities in the earlier part of 1965 to the fast rising C&W artist who could be a "one man show" anywhere—the talented Del Reeves. I became so enthused with Del's ability to entertain an audience via his songs, impersonations and humorous quips that before the year was over I had traveled over 4,000 miles to watch Del on various shows—as far away as Smokey Smith land (Des Moines, Ia.)—and I even started a Del Reeves fan club!

Central Illinois is a wonderful place to live if you

continued on page 27

Southeast

NOTES

By BEA AND RED WILCOX

After a full summer and fall schedule, Country Music shows are still more popular than ever around the Washington, D. C., and related areas. The month of November brought a big "Bull Roast" to the Baltimore, Md. Civic Center sponsored by WBMD Radio of Baltimore. There was over six hours of live continuous Country Music provided by many artists—including Jim & Jesse, and there was catered food of all varieties in any quantity that was included with the price of admission. There was a Marty Robbins tour through here too, including Bluefield, W. Va.; Gettysburg, Pa.; and Falls Church, Va. Also featured on this tour (although not at all the dates) were Lorene Mann, The Compton Brothers, and ever popular Bill Monroe.

Among the New Year's eve offerings will be Alexandria, Va.'s benefit show starring Stonewall Jackson, Melba Montgomery, Jim & Jesse, Ray Pillow, Archie Campbell, and the Compton Brothers. The same show will be in Gettysburg, Pa. New Year's day.

Jim Clark, Box 186, Fairfax, Va., advises that any country music fan in any state or overseas who wants to receive his free Music Capitol Newsletter to write to him to be put on the mailing list. Whether or not a person is already on the mailing list, Jim cannot continue to send these Newsletters to you unless he has your Zip Code Number.

A new fan club with headquarters in the D.C. area has been established for Miss Dottie West. President and long-time friend of Dottie is Mrs. Margaret Colburn, 4719 Nantucket Road, College Park, Md. 20741. Margaret is the very efficient secretary at WDON Radio, Wheaton, Md.

News of area artists primarily concerns the Compton Brothers and their recent signing by Omac Artists Corp. (Buck Owens and Jack McFadden), and their planned move to Bakersfield, Calif. sometime in January. The Comptons recently purchased a bus for road trips and tried it out recently on a jaunt to the Wheeling, W. Va. Jamboree. The Stoneman family has been appearing at the Dairyland Ballroom in Jessup, Md., and has really been "packing them in." Their show is carried over the airwaves through the facilities of WXRA, Woodbridge, Va. WEEL's (Fairfax, Va.) night-time country deejay, Wes Traynor, does a remote broadcast on Saturday nights from Cleve's Pizza in Falls Church, Va.

Area fans are extremely pleased over the new country sounds emanating from WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va. WWVA recently "switched" to an all country format and can be picked up almost anywhere in our area—especially at night. Area artists Red Allen, Bill and Wayne Yates, and Porter Church are now regulars of the WWVA Jamboree and commute from here every other weekend on their bus.

WDON, Wheaton, Md., in the interest of better

continued on page 27

NEWS NEWS NEWS

A baby girl—to Mr. and Mrs. Jan Crutchfield November 13 at Nashville's Baptist Hospital. He's professional manager of Cedarwood Publishing Co.

* * * * *

RCA Victor songstress Dottie West has been tabbed to take the featured female role on the soon-to-be-syndicated "Webb Pierce TV Show," according to a spokesman for the producers. Joining Dottie as a permanent part of the Pierce program will be The Glaser Brothers and The Prophets.

* * * * *



RADIO K-BER celebrated its fourth anniversary at the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio Sunday, November 7, with a spectacular Grand Ole Opry Show. Appearing in photo, the talent included Marty Robbins, Hank Snow, Don Gibson, George Jones, Jimmy Dickens, Janet McBride, Vern Stovall, Don Winters, Roy Clark, Curtis Leach, Johnny Paycheck and three bands. Shown beside the anniversary cake is A.V. "Bam" Bamford, K-BER owner; and K-BER personnel Eddie Daniels, Lou Roney, Bubba Reding and Harrell Banks. K-BER is now recognized as the Number Two Country station in the nation.

* * * * *

THE next Kitty Wells album, scheduled for release early in 1966, is titled "Kitty Wells Sings Songs Made Famous By Jim Reeves." Her next single will be "A Woman Half My Age."

* * * * *

RENOVATIONS were completed in early November on a combination club house-retreat-work shop for the songwriters of Cedarwood Publishing Co. The work shop area is comprised of four rooms and is situated immediately behind Cedarwood Sound Studios in a company-owned structure fronting 17th Avenue. Facilities available to the Cedarwood writers are recording equipment, musical instruments and such lounge area trappings as stove, refrigerator and reading matter. "This is not a major facility renovation in any sense," explained Denny. "We've simply set aside and spruced up an area for our songwriters to meet in and work with a minimum of annoyance and distraction. Naturally many of them create excellent works at home in their own studios. Now, however, they've a 'home away from home' atmosphere, available to them and we hope they'll find it useful."

FOR the first time in years, four Country and Western tunes by C&W artists are being carried in the Pop Top 40 charts. Leading the list is Little Jimmy Dickens' "May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose." It's currently rated as No. 14 in Boston, 39 in Pittsburgh, 32 in Cleveland, 27 in Detroit, 39 in San Francisco, and 17 in Seattle. Other Country types, following close on the heels in the Pop market, are: "Make The World Go Away" by Eddie Arnold, "England Swings" by Roger Miller, and "Flowers On The Wall" by The Statler Brothers.

* * * * *

STARDAY Record's Red Sovine participated in a citywide promotion of his latest recording "Giddyup Go" November 20 in Houston, Tex. The promotion is being sponsored by Houston's Radio Station KIKK. A "truckers welcome wagon" will feature Red on hand to give away records, autographed pictures and "Giddyup Go" signs for each truck, hopefully to then be spirited about the country on behalf of KIKK and Starday Records.

* * * * *

THE first leasing of a master recorded in the new Cedarwood Sound Studios was announced by Roger Sovine, studio manager. The master recording was leased to Dot Records through Noel Ball, Dot representative. Produced by John Denny and recorded by Sweet William and The Stereos, "Bring It On Home" b/w "I Can Hear My Baby" was released in November.



A new contractual agreement was recently completed between RCA artist Norma Jean and Moeller Talent Inc. which will enable her to be booked as a single act. The arrangement came about as a result of a "significant increase in the entertainer's popularity," says Larry Moeller. For the past six years Norma has been a featured part of The Porter Wagoner Road Show. Under the new arrangement she may also be booked as a single act. She will continue to be a regular on the syndicated Porter Wagoner TV Show and her RCA Victor recording sessions will continue to be supervised by Porter Wagoner.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



TANDY Rice, formerly the well known public relations director for Moeller Talent, Inc., has branched out on his own by establishing his own public relations firm at 720 Seventeenth Avenue, South, Nashville, Tenn. The very capable Tandy will continue to represent Moeller. Combined with public relations, he will also be handling publicity and advertising. Tandy Rice's ability and knowledge should be a tremendous asset to the Country Music business!

* * * * *

SANTA Claus won't get total credit for making things merry and bright at the Jimmy Dickens household this year. He'll have to share those honors with Happy Wilson. He's done it before. Wilson heads local operations for Central Songs Inc. and was primarily responsible for bringing to Dickens' attention the demonstration tape of "May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose." Dickens liked it, recorded it, and it became a household word throughout the country. The last time the two got together, Dickens grabbed a Wilson pitch and it followed pretty much the same pattern. The song, "Sleeping At The Foot Of The Bed" was his second-best seller to date.

* * * * *

PENNSYLVANIA'S well known personality, Howard Vokes, has recently gone into the record field. First release on the Vokes label is "Teardrop Blindness" b/w "Keep Cool But Don't Freeze" by Hank Jolley (Vokes No. 100).

* * * * *

AN "unusual" concentration of promotional activity is being planned by Nashville's Cedarwood Publishing Co. for the forthcoming Webb Pierce Decca single "Christmas At Home." Written by Wayne Walker and Max Powell, the song has the distinction of being a Christmas song with year 'round appeal. After 26 hit records, this is Pierce's first Christmas-oriented single. It has been held for release to the winter market, but plans call for sustained exposure after the holiday season.

THURSDAY, November 11, 1965, KLRN-TV, educational TV channel 9, San Antonio, Texas, presented a symposium on Country Music. The panel consisted of Max Gardner, Koke Austin, who spoke from Austin, and A.V. Bamford, general manager of K-BER San Antonio. Also making a video tape appearance were George Jones and Don Gibson. Bamford advises that KLRN-TV is planning future discussion on Country Music.

* * * * *

THE Nashville-based Acuff-Rose publishing agency and recording complex now reaches out to most of the major countries of the free world. At least one more nation, Japan, now widely regarded as the world's third largest music and record market, is expected to become a target for stepped-up Acuff-Rose activity as a result of a forthcoming visit to that country by Wesley H. Rose, president of the Nashville combine. Rose leaves on his extended far east tour this week.

* * * * *



DECCA recording artist Johnny Wright, whose son plays the part of "Willie" in McHale's Navy, prepares to do a taped Christmas greeting for a group of sailors he has been corresponding with in Viet Nam. Looking on is Navy disc jockey Bill Taylor of the Nashville recruiting office.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

REX Allen recently signed a contract for personal appearances at the Arizona Livestock Show January 5-8. The star will take his horse Koko, Jr. along, and the "Men of the West." Lee TePoel represented the Livestock Show, and manager Mickey Gross, Allen.

* * * * *

ELECTION of officers of Music City Women's Association was held November 9. Elected were: President, Jean Stromatt (Kitty Wells organization); Vice president, Jean Matthews (Heather Publications); Secretary, Nancy Tenant (Epic Records); Treasurer, Ruth Charon (COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE); Publicity chairman, Phillis Dickenson (Music City News); and Sunshine chairman, Betty Ashworth. The organization is composed of women associated with the Nashville music industry as secretaries, songwriters, executives or artists. Meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month. The group is planning a Christmas party to be held at the Riverwood Riding Academy Dec. 7.



BOBBY Williamson, 20-year-old veteran of West Coast show business, has been appointed Cedarwood Publishing Co.'s representative in Hollywood. During the past two decades he has been involved with almost every significant facet of Western show business. Among the "name" personalities he has worked with are Bob Hope, Anita Bryant, The Lone Ranger and the stars of Wagon Train. In the last four years he has performed as actor and musician on approximately 60 network shows, including the Jack Benny Show, Craft Suspense Theater, Chrysler Theater, Arrest and Trial and The Virginian. In 1965 Bobby appeared in two movies: "The Third Day," filmed at Warner Bros., and "Madam X," starring Lana Turner and filmed at Universal Studios.



BILLY Walker steps into holiday festivities with five good reasons for wanting to be at home, and not on the road, December 25. Reasons one through five (stair stepping left to right): wife Boots and daughters Judy, Deana, Tina and Julie. Not shown is Brazos, the horse—also female!

* * * * *

AN exchange of correspondence between Johnny Wright and a group of 50 Country Music loving U.S. sailors based aboard an aircraft carrier near Viet Nam was recently disclosed by Johnny. It began when the seamen's appointed leader contacted Wright stating that "We have heard your song over our ship's entertainment system and like it very much. You've pretty well captured the spirit of how we, who are so actively involved over here, actually feel about the war itself and being away from our wives, girl friends and families." The sailors also had a word about the Viet Nam protest demonstrations. "We feel," they commented, "that your song says something very meaningful to the people who are causing such trouble in our colleges and cities. We hope they'll pay close attention to the words and will think twice before condemning our position against the Communists over here." The song referred to was Johnny Wright's rendition of "Hello Viet Nam," his latest single and currently rated in the "Top Five" in almost all major C&W song charts. It was the first song to be released by a Country Music artist based solely on the fracas and its ramifications. A request for 50 copies, "payable through a collection we've taken up," was made in the initial letter, and Wright, working with the Decca offices, rushed to honor it in time for Christmas. Decca Records footed the bill.

* * * * *

A Country Music special with Minnie Pearl as hostess, LeRoy Van Dyke, Dottie West and Don Bowman as the main performers, was aired on WCBS-TV's (New York) "Dial M For Music." Plans call for the show to be programmed nationally at a later date on CBS-owned and operated stations.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

AS a result of a highly successful 4-day personal appearance run by Carl Smith in Canada, Moeller Talent Inc. intends to arrange appearances for the artist's "Country Music Hall," and guest artists, in every city in Canada in 1966 where the show is carried. Smith returned from consecutive performances in Oshawa, Peterborough, Kitchener and London, Ont. Canada, reporting SRO crowds at all shows. Carl currently hosts the highly popular "Carl Smith Country Music Hall" television show which is carried coast-to-coast during prime time each Monday night in Canada. "This proves what we suspected all along," commented "Lucky" Moeller. "Carl's individual popularity and that of his show is absolutely tremendous. There is a huge C&W following in the areas that receive the show, and we intend to concentrate on booking shows there in 1966."

* * * * *

FRIDAY, October 8, 1965, will always have a special place in a certain little girl's heart. She went to see the Heart Of Texas Fair and Rodeo, with the hope that she might get to shake Rex Allen's hand. As he made his way around the arena shaking all the outstretched hands, this little girl managed to get his attention by calling to him and then telling him a riddle. Because he could not answer the riddle, he said, "Just for that, you get my hat," and with this he placed his hat on the head of a very surprised and thrilled child. Next morning she remembered she had not thanked Mr. Allen, so her daddy put in a phone call and eight-year-old Leslie Willis talked with Rex Allen to thank him for her precious remembrance.

* * * * *

RCA Victor headman Chet Atkins comments on Archie Campbell's "Have A Laff On Me" album due out in February: "It's absolutely the best thing Archie's ever had out. It should be *the* one." The long player features many novelty tunes written by Hank Cochrane, comedy routines and chatter, plus such established Campbell recitations as "Rinderella," "Hockey Here Tonight," "Beeping Sleauty" and "The Drunk."

* * * * *

A joint literary effort by Columbia Recording artist Billy Walker and agent-promoter Vic Lewis will be offered early next year. "We intend for the book to be both informative and instructive, both from the artist's standpoint and the promotional field," commented Walker. Essentially, the book will discuss the ins and outs of the Country Music business and serve as a guide to the aspirant who hopes to break into it. To date, neither the publisher nor the title has been decided upon.

* * * * *

LATEST album effort by RCA Victor songstress Dottie West, "Dottie West Sings," is also to be released in January. The LP will feature many of the old songs Dottie has made famous.

"AMERICAN Swing Around," a new Country Music TV show out of Chicago, saluted Columbia Record's Billy Walker and his "Cross The Brazos" album. Guesting with the artist on the album's behalf were Slim Whitman, Justin Tubb and Wilma Burgess. "American Swing Around" is hosted by Chris Lane, WJJD program director, and features a general Country Music theme in the Windy City each week. The theme of Walker's particular show was "Songs of the Southwest."

* * * * *

EUROPEAN tours were set for Carl Perkins and Red Sovine by Moeller Talent Inc. Perkins' tour will begin November 30 and extend through December 19, and will include Germany, Italy and France. Sovine tours the same countries April 1 through May 1.

* * * * *

RECENTLY completed Cedarwood sound studios at Cedarwood Publishing Co. officially open for public usage November 15, according to Bill Denny, president. In making the announcement, Denny revealed that Roger Sovine, 22-year-old son of Country Music singer Red Sovine, has been named to head the studio's operation. Sovine has worked in the publishing company's promotion and public relations department since joining the firm in March of this year. The studio's recording facilities will operate as a distinct and separate entity from the publishing company and will be available to the public for both demo and master sessions.

* * * * *

THE Blue Boys, the late Jim Reeves' Band, have re-signed with RCA Victor and are slated for a new release in the near future. This is a mighty talented group!



HAPPINESS is a thoughtful father-in-law—Cedarwood songwriter Wayne Walker has two reasons for being happy. One is shown above, an A-Model Ford received as a birthday present from his father-in-law Ernest Tubb. The unshown reason is also related to the Texas troubador. "E. T." then made an added gift by recording and making a hit of Wayne's latest Cedarwood tune, "After The Boy Gets The Girl."

BUCK OWENS



As I Know Him.....

By HELEN GOGLIN

For me, writing an article about Buck Owens is as natural as breathing. Seems like I've been doing both for so long, I can hardly remember *not* doing them.

Wish I could say "I knew Buck when . . ." but I can't. I first met him less than a year before he was officially voted the nation's No. 1 country artist. Looking back now, and remembering how I expected to meet "just another big name artist" (and everything those words imply) I can only shake my head in bewilderment.

If I had been apathetic before I met Buck, that sure ended with a bang the first time he came to town. You know what I mean—the way, when you first meet him, he comes forward with a warm handshake and the words that tell you he's sincerely glad to know you . . . and he proves it later by remembering your name. Add to this the most dynamic on-stage

performance in the business—and believe me, you *know* something has hit you! You'll never be the same again. You've caught a fatal disease. It's called "Buck Owens Fever," and there's no cure for it. Friend, you are a goner.

Buck is a winner, no doubt about it. For two years in a row now, the deejays have voted him the nation's No. 1 Country Artist, and both years he could easily have used a wheelbarrow to carry all his awards home. However, his legions of fans claim they don't need any polls to tell them Buck is tops—they knew it all along.

There have been, in recent years, a number of country artists who have had hit records swing into the Pop charts. It is hardly necessary to list them again, for we all know who they are. You can hardly blame them, in a way, for attempting to follow up their Pop successes with more "big sound" record-

Pledge to Country Music

*I shall sing no song that is
not a country song*

*I shall make no record that is
not a country record*

*I refuse to be known as anything
but a country singer*

*I am proud to be associated
with country music*

*Country music and country
music fans have made me
what I am today*

And I shall not forget it.

Buck Owens

ings. But a glance at history will tell you that nothing much happened to a lot of these subsequent recordings.

There was naturally much speculation when the Pop stations jumped on "I've Got A Tiger By The Tail." Fans asked each other—and they asked Buck—would this taste of Pop success sway yet another artist to try to leave the country field?

"With most of them, I was their number one boy because I was *Country*," says Buck, "and they wanted to know what I planned to do."

Well, as we said before, Buck Owens is not like any other artist we have ever known. He did not record "middle of the road" or "pop" material. Instead he wrote the Buck Owens "Pledge to Country Music" and, in his own words, "stirred up a real hornet's nest."

Where Buck's fans were concerned, of course, there was nothing controversial about the Pledge.

They were overjoyed at his public stand in favor of their music. But with some of Buck's fellow entertainers it was another story. They were up in arms.

"I wrote the Pledge," Buck recalled, "not knowing, not realizing, that it was going to step on anybody's toes. But it certainly did! It stepped on a lot of toes."

It would seem that the entertainers who were most upset were the very ones who best knew that they could not truthfully claim these things. And, as Buck was quick to point out, "One of the top entertainers told me that the only reason he was upset about the Pledge was that *he* didn't think of it."

Some people asked, "Who does Buck Owens think he is anyway? How can he pledge, on one hand, to keep it country, and then turn right around and record songs like 'Memphis' and 'Charlie Brown'?"

I threw these remarks at Buck, and he replied, tongue-in-cheek, "I guess we can always rewrite part



Buck gazes out across the green expanse of range on his ranch near Bakersfield, California.

of the Pledge and make it say 'I shall record no song that is not a country song, EXCEPT 'Memphis' and EXCEPT 'Charlie Brown'.

"Besides, I'm not so sure that 'Memphis' is not a country song!" he countered. "I always thought it *was* country, but evidently—I guess because it was written by Chuck Berry—it isn't."

Has all his success changed Buck Owens, or is it likely to do so? Emphatically, NO!

Star or no star, Buck is still the same guy who lives with his wife Phyllis, daughter Terri (14), sons Jacky (12), and Johnny (9) on a ranch just outside Bakersfield, California. When he's home he drives the tractor, cultivates, and tends to his horses and prize Black Angus. If the occasion arises that he has to go into town, he just takes off and goes—not stopping to worry if his clothes are clean or if he remembered to shave.

I asked Buck about his plans for the future. "I will continue to record country music," he told me, and his manager Jack McFadden added that Buck and the Buckaroos will be making a tour of Japan and the Far East in March 1966; that they are about to begin work on a movie; and that two more Jimmy Dean Show appearances are set for December 24 and January 21. "Incidentally," Jack added, "we've recently moved into new offices at 1904 Truxtun Ave., Suite 7, Bakersfield, and we'd like to invite the folks to drop us a line."

So now I've told you some of my impressions of Buck Owens . . . the Buck who stands 6'1", weighs in at 175 lbs., with green eyes and light brown hair . . . the hard-working Buck who is quick to see what needs to be done, and who is right there doing his share . . . the Buck who refuses to lower his standards and accept second best . . . the Buck who never pretends to be something he's not, and who accepts others just as they are—and the best doggone friend I've got!



Buck is a real rancher: Black Angus cattle and horses. Here he looks down from his tractor. Below: Buck looks over the stock in the corral.



AND HIS BUCKAROOS



DOYLE

WILLIE

BUCK

DON

TOM



TEX RITTER



By TEXAS JIM COOPER

The West was the scene of the most colorful period in American history — and one of the most notable interpreters of the folklore and music of that age is Tex Ritter, now a resident of Nashville, where he is WSM Grand Ole Opry star, and host and president of the Country Music Association.

Tex Ritter's whole life has been a reflection of the West. He was born in 1907 on the family's East Texas ranch, first settled in 1830 by his great grandfather, Frank Ritter. On this land, Tex followed traits of ranching and also—in the Western tradition—learned to rope, ride, and shoot.

At the University of Texas a few years later, Tex developed his singing. His Texas drawl, like the West, had a rich, impressive flavor that still remains his trademark. He studied voice under the noted cow-

boy composer Oscar J. Fox and sang in the University Glee Club, of which he became president. He acquired a friend in John A. Lomax, collector of Western ballads, "all of which Tex learned by heart." And there was the close friendship with his professor, the late J. Frank Dobie, who helped start young Ritter on the road to Western folklore collecting. Today, Tex has one of the world's largest collections of cowboy, country, and traditional Negro folk songs.

After the University of Texas, Tex sang Western songs over a Houston radio station in 1929 and eventually ended up a band-tour in New York, where he introduced Western Music. He used his deep voice and acting ability in several Western plays on the Broadway stage, i.e., "Green Grow The Lilacs" (now known as "Oklahoma!"). Tex wrote for and acted in the then-new radio Western classic, *The Lone Ranger*,

America's Most Beloved Cowboy

and starred in other radio Westerns like *Cowboy Tom's Roundup*, which became the most popular children's program in the East at that time. Billed as the "Texas Cowboy and His songs," Tex lectured at New York University, as he had done earlier at Southwestern universities. With his distinctive vocal style, he was a very popular "singing lecturer." It is significant that it was Tex who introduced for modern music lovers those Western standards, "Rye Whiskey" and "The Boll Weevil Song."

In 1936, tall and robust Tex Ritter became a Western movie star in the fashion of Will Rogers, William S. Hart, Tom Mix and Hoot Gibson. In all, Tex starred in 78 musical Westerns, in which the saga of the singing cowboy of the West was clearly emphasized. Tex, one of the favorites in the film industry, was voted by *Motion Picture Herald* as one of the top ten cowboys for seven years. The Tex Ritter Westerns "were the first American movies to be shown on BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) television."

In 1952, Tex set a precedent for future Westerns by singing the film theme of *High Noon* for the award winning film of the same name. This Ritter hit, one of a number of themes he has sung for movies, added to the legendary Texan's fame and swiftly became the number one song of the year.



TEX RITTER, who in 1962 was perpetuated into the Aksarben Western Hall of Fame. Photo from Jeri Lawrence: *Preview Photos of Hollywood*.



TEX RITTER and his horse White Flash, which appeared with him in 70 of some 80 Ritter Hollywood Westerns. Photo from files of Dallas, Tex. Public Library entertainment section.

Tex, who enjoys horseback riding, prospecting, and American Indian lore—all integral facets of Western life and history—reveals in his many Columbia, Decca, Camay and Capitol recordings the spirit and beauty and romance of the West, as with such singles as "Goodbye Ole Paint," "Hittin' The Trail," "Bad Brahma Bull," "Hillbilly Heaven," "Jingle Jangle Jingle," "High, Wide And Handsome," "Gunsmoke Trail," "Cookson Hills," and "Fool's Paradise." Of these, three may be taken as representative of Tex's Western singles. In "Hillbilly Heaven," Tex dreams of going to that cowboy paradise and is greeted at the gate by "the old cowboy-philosopher himself, Will Rogers." "Gunsmoke Trail" is the lyrical adaptation of the theme of that high-ranked television Western, *Gunsmoke*. And "Fool's Paradise," released in 1964, is the sad, touching song of a trail-boss who dies in a Del Rio, Texas gunfight defending the honor of his sweetheart.

Tex's Capitol albums include many Western tunes that have become tributes to that exciting era. Among these albums are "Songs From The Western Screen," "Blood On The Saddle," and one simply titled "Stan Kenton — Tex Ritter!" in which Kenton's jazz band provides the background beat to Tex's stirring renditions. The latest Ritter album of a Western nature

Lorene Mann

From Songwriter to Song Stylist



Lorene Mann may be a brand new RCA Victor recording artist, but she certainly isn't new to the music industry in general.

Actually Lorene is considered to be one of Nashville's more noted songwriters with such works as "Don't Go Near The Indians," "Left To Right" and "Something Precious" to her credit. She came to Nashville in 1956 with the intention of becoming a songwriter, her only ambition. Through her efforts in this field, she made many acquaintances and friends, one of them being Marie Wilson, another successful songwriter. Through the years Marie and other friends encouraged Lorene to try singing, but to no avail. Finally, Lorene consented to try two of her own songs on a label owned by Marie Wilson and Gary Von. The session went off well, and Lorene justified the faith of her friends with the outcome.

RCA heard the finished product and through negotiations signed Lorene to a contract. Her first RCA Victor Record is "So I Could Be Your Friend."

Lorene was born January 4, 1937 in Huntland, Tenn. She was the youngest of ten children born to John and Minnie Mann.

She attended local schools and graduated with honors from Huntland High in 1954. While in high school she received the DAR award, the Good Citizenship medal, and was elected Valedictorian of her graduating class. After graduation, she attended Freed-Hardeman College.

Lorene's interest in music started at the age of twelve when one of her brothers gave her an old guitar and another brother drew chord diagrams for her to follow. She soon became adept at the guitar much to the enjoyment of family and friends.

Many good things have happened to Lorene since she made Nashville her home. She has had enormous success in writing; she has interest in two publishing companies; and she has been the recipient of two coveted BMI awards—"Don't Go Near The Indians" and "Left To Right."

Lorene recently signed a contract with RCA, and now has a duet "Hurry Mr. Peters" on the chart with Justin Tubb. She was voted No. 2 most promising in Cash Box this year. Lorene recently was a guest on "American Swing-Around," and just finished a part in a country music film at Nashville which will be released in January.

Keep your eye on Lorene Mann, and watch for BIG THINGS TO COME!



THE BILLY MARTIN SHOW



For those of you who have had the deep enjoyment of witnessing The Billy Martin Show, I am sure you won't mind reminiscing with me again . . . for those of you who have not seen this fast moving and professional show . . . you still have a rewarding experience in store for you! The Billy Martin Show is booked out of Nashville by the Wilhelm Agency, booked all over the United States. Their recent tour through Idaho and Montana was the fourth of such Western tours. Tours that they enjoy immensely, because "it gives them an opportunity to take live professional country music to areas where the people seldom have a chance to witness such a show!" Needless to say, they are received with open arms.

Billy Martin is a true country entertainer. His start in the business as a disc jockey educated him to the kind of music that country fans want to hear. After forming his fine band known as the "Sundowners," Jimmy Newman of the Grand Ole Opry brought him to the attention of H. W. Daily of "D" Records, which led to Billy's first two releases. Billy Martin, Pontiac, Michigan's only D.J., soon had his own live country show over WPON each Saturday night. He was guest artist on many radio and TV country shows throughout the United States.

Billy added Debbie Lane to the show as a female vocalist, and soon had his own TV show known as "Michigan Jamboree" in Jackson, Mich.

Billy Martin now lives in Madison, Tenn. (suburb of Nashville) with his wife Doris and their two lovely children Rita and Dennis.

The Billy Martin Road show with beautiful Debbie Lane and the Sundowners is a show that you must see when it comes to your town.



Billy Martin with Loretta Lynn.



Billy poses with pretty Debby Lane.



THE MELODY RANCH SHOW

By
FRANK HARRIS

Every Saturday night Southern California television viewers have the opportunity to see a show on KTLA Los Angeles that is literally "loaded" with talent, ability, professionalism and wonderful entertainment. One solid hour of a full color show that has everything! Top Country talent, elaborate sets, superb production and directing, excellent video and audio — all in all — a really "great" show . . . The Melody Ranch Show!

The regular stars of the show are handsome and personable Billy Mize, the ever popular veteran Johnny Bond, pretty and cute Joan de Ville, and Carl Cotner and The Melody Ranchers.

In addition to these regular stars, the Melody



Ranch format includes from one to several guests each week! The result of this approach is a completely new, fast-moving show every week!

As a regular viewer of Melody Ranch, I had planned for quite some time for COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE to feature this excellent show in an early issue. However, I had not yet made any concrete arrangements.

I was at Buck Owen's recording session at Capital Records a couple of weeks ago, remembering to stop breathing whenever the red light was on, when Billy Mize, the star of The Melody Ranch Show, tiptoed in. After that "take" was over, and Billy and I had a chance to talk, he invited me to visit their rehearsal later that same afternoon. The result was a meeting

Billy Mize



Joan de Ville



Johnny Bond





THE fine music of Carl Cotner and the Melody Ranchers.

with Barbara John, producer of Melody Ranch, Jerry Birdwell, publicity director, and Gary Van Clausen, his assistant. All arrangements were made for the following week!

Melody Ranch is a taped show. The week's activity starts right after lunch on Wednesday. It usually starts with a "talk over" rehearsal of the script, and progresses to the individuals practicing songs, routines, etc., the recording of group vocals, a break for

costumes and make up, dress rehearsal, and finally the actual shooting with the color cameras.

This week's show was really a star-studded ensemble: Billy Mize, Johnny Bond, Joan de Ville, and special guests Rex Allen, Hank Penny, The Jack Halloran Singers, Homer Garret and the Y-Not Twirlers, and of course, the fine music of "regular" Carl Cotner and The Melody Ranchers.

The informal atmosphere throughout the six or

GENE Autry maintains his usual poise and polish at one of his occasional appearances on the Melody Ranch Show.



BARBARA John, producer of Melody Ranch, goes over the script with Billy Mize.





Rex Allen and the Jack Halloran Singers practice a number during rehearsal.



JOHNNY Bond is "caught" between tunes. (The glasses came off for the actual shooting to eliminate glare from the lights.)

Johnny, Billy and Hank listening to the Director during rehearsal.



BILLY and Rex Allen "talk" over the script between "takes."



Johnny Bond seems to be saying to Hank Penny, "What kind of Deal is this?"

seven hours, from "talk over" to final shooting, contributes so much to the relaxed appearance of the final show. A little "horse play" between routines is a wonderful tension breaker.

The dress rehearsal and shooting is a breathtaking sight in full color. The outdoor set was used for a Thanksgiving theme—complete with Ranchhouse porch, chuck wagon, open fire, corral, and a large Weeping Willow tree, complete with tree seat. The Thanksgiving theme was carried out with a large table, set to serve ten people, a turkey and "all the trimmings."

As I gazed across the set, the vivid color was enhanced by Joan's bright blue, red and white dress, the yellow costumes of the band, Hank Penny's plaid shirt (complete with apron and chef's hat), Billy and



PRETTY Joan de Ville points a shot gun at us, as she sings "You Can't Get A Man With A Gun!"



THE camera checks color and focus on Johnny Bond and Hank Penny during rehearsal.

Rex Allen dressed a little more conservatively in brown Western suits, and the bright plaids and blues of the Y-Not Twirlers.

The vocal and entertainment quality of the Melody Ranch show is so far above the average; the beautiful full voice of Billy Mize singing ballads, the typical western style of Johnny Bond, the cute delivery of pert Joan de Ville, the comedy of Hank Penny, that wonderful voice of a real "pro", Rex Allen ... I could go on and on ... a really great show!

The Melody Ranch Show is basically the same show that Gene Autry had for many years over both radio and television — with new stars and new faces. (Gene still makes an occasional appearance.) The show has lost none of its old appeal ... and gained more!

The professionalism and quality of this show, both technically and entertainment-wise, is at such a high level, it is my conviction that this show should be syndicated nationally. I feel as though Country Music fans are being deprived of one hour of genuine pleasure each and every week! In the meantime, if you come out California way, be sure to tune in ... every Saturday night ... The Melody Ranch Show!



Guest star Rex Allen sings "Riding Down That Old Texas Trail."



Joan de Ville is busy at the table as Billy Mize sings and Rex Allen listens.



BILLY MIZE sings a ballad as Hank Penny "fusses" with the Chuck Wagon and Rex Allen listens intently.



JOAN de Ville is setting the table while the "Y-Not Twirlers" perform a dance routine.

The Incomparable

Skeeter Davis

Skeeter Davis has conquered a challenge to the show business world: to become a top star, remain at that peak and maintain a flow of top selling records year after year!

Hit releases, many awards, a permanent home with the WSM Grand Ole Opry, national television offers — all of these perky Skeeter has. But her greatest possession, with all this Cinderella glory, is a personality that remains untouched by stardom.

Blonde, green-eyed, 5' 4" Skeeter Davis was born in Dry Ridge, Kentucky, and lucky to have three sisters and an equal number of brothers. The giving and sharing atmosphere, so necessary with a large family, lent its share to her selflessness. When she is chatting away, a million miles an hour, she has the sweet innocence of a child spending memorable happy hours with her family. Yet professionally she has the mature sense and appearance of a polished entertainer, a worthy attraction for any kind of show, either country or uptown.

For some time Skeeter has been recording on the RCA Victor label. She shares the spotlight with Chet Atkins, Eddy Arnold, The Browns, Lorene Mann, Willie Nelson, Elvis Presley, and many others.

Many of her hit records have travelled the difficult road to the top of the nation's charts, both "pop" and country. When she recorded "The End Of The World" and "I'm Falling Too," the first indication of her moving up into the "big time" was a phone call from Houston, Texas. A distributor excitedly announced that he had sold 10,000 copies of "The End Of The World" in the first four weeks. Then the disc really exploded, and she was a full fledged star.

She was finally established and still remains there.

A few years back, Skeeter had attained recognition as one of the Davis Sisters, with the hit, "I Forgot More Than You'll Ever Know," penned by Cecil Null. Following the death of a member of the group, Betty Jack, she branched out on her own with the successful courtroom tear-jerker, "Set Him Free." This song, along with others, have proved another attribute of Skeeter Davis—that of being a songwriter. She wrote

all or part of the following: "I'm Falling Too," "My Last Date," "Homebreaker," and "Someone I'd Like To Forget."

A short time back, when the boy-girl duet trends broke big in Country Music, Skeeter joined in with an RCA album with Porter Wagoner and later a record with Bobby Bare.

Skeeter's multi-field sales appeal stems from one basic quality; she delivers the soulful haunting strains which the country fans crave, with a voice that is youthful . . . a sound that is so popular with the teenage fans of today.

There has been some controversy concerning the modern country sound, with drums and occasionally horns, but this is a necessary and commendable thing with the changing world and exploding growth of Country Music, accelerated by the powerful medium of television. With literally millions of new fans, variety is a prime necessity, and our use of this variety brands us with intelligence.

Concerning this, Skeeter states: "I always worry about my country fans, thinking I am not loyal. But I find when I do the big shows with Connie Francis, The Beach Boys, Rolling Stones and Johnny Tillotson with crowds around 10,000 there sit my same faithful country fans in the first four rows. In other words, they were the first to buy tickets. So I think it is a very small minority who object to the modern country sound."

Skeeter has a wealth of stage experience, having been a real trouper since 1949 on shows over WLAX, Lexington, Ky. and WJR, Detroit. Her poise strengthened with regular stints on WCOP and WKRC TV in Cincinnati, and later on WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling. She and Betty were recording in 1953, then in 1959 Skeeter was signed to the Grand Ole Opry. This was on August 1st and she was so touched by it that she asked if she could keep the pen. In 1960 she had two songs on the top 20 "pop" charts, "I'm Falling Too" plus "My Last Date." This was really something for a country star in those days.

This bouncy girl has appeared on many of the national shows such as Dick Clark, Steve Allen, Jimmy Dean, and appeared in the full length movie, "Forty Acre Fued," which was produced by Hollywood's Ron Ormand, producer of over 60 movies. (Ron is now settled in Nashville to do continuous picture





Skeeter and her pet Pekingese Tinker look over a copy of Variety.



Tinker begs for the "goodie" that Skeeter holds.



Skeeter looks over the album cover of the duet that she and Porter Wagoner made. She holds her stuffed RCA dog.



PAUL Charon, Skeeter and Ronnie Light waiting to go "on stage" at a recent Bobby Lord show.

work, which you can be assured will be in par excellence style.)

Today Skeeter Davis is happy living in her spacious home in suburban Brentwood, on the outskirts of Nashville. She most dearly loves animals, both live and stuffed toys. Her room is full of these keepsakes that her fans have sent her. Her Pekingese "Tinker 11" is precious to her and she even takes him on plane trips for some of her tours. He was given to her by Red Foley and Si Simon when she appeared on the Ozark Jubilee as a guest. She was so sad over the death of Tinker 1 that they went out and purchased this little dog. Charlie, her chameleon, is always changing colors. For three years she has had a pet dove, Dodie, which she found wounded on the highway. The newest to her collection of live pets are miniature twin poodles, Sonny and Cher.

Skeeter is loved by all who come in contact with her. So professional and polished on the stage, she is charming, down to earth, and friendly to all. This inherent quality is admired with respect.

You can always look to Skeeter to be perfect in her appearance. Her costumes are always decorative; in the summer they are cotton or brocade country style, with a full, feminine skirt; in winter she prefers velvet fabric, with rhinestones, pearls and a full skirt hemmed with fur or white feathers. Her dress-maker has a nimble hand and weaves magic into her creations.

As a regular part of her act, both in Nashville and on the road, Skeeter has Ronnie Light and Paul Charon playing guitar and drums. Occasionally she uses Larry Light and Dave Lee, who play excellent electric piano and bass. So far, Skeeter just calls the group "Skeeter and her two friends"—she is looking for a title! Recently the boys have worked with Skeeter the Nashville Christmas Village, Fridaysyndicated National Life Opry show, syndicated Bobby Lord show, the Eddy Arnold Concert in Atlanta, etc.

"Pete," the housekeeper, fixes some delicious steaks and chili for the boys when they go out to Skeeters' to rehearse.

They rave about the kindness that Skeeter extends to them, along with her consideration and respect. All in all, Skeeter Davis is a wonderful girl who has the warmth and ability to stay on top for years and years to come.

Tips From The Top continued from page 6

Matter of fact, it's the artists who do write their own material who have the best chance of getting the right recording contracts.

(continued next month)

Nashville Notes continued from page 6

D.J.s as a whole are known personalities: Tommy Dee, Scoopie Brucie Harper, Scotty Ferguson, Johnny Holaday and Dick Delmar. From Dick you will hear some of his dreamtime romantic recitations between records. If you can remember years back before television, you could hear him on NBC. Holaday does not lean towards just the nation's top records. Quote he, "The Public has the right to hear every effort put forth by an artist." That is, he plays every record brought to him; then, when the listeners request, they get re-plays. Some may be genuinely magnificent in voice, composition and direction; others may just contain one single good lick on the banjo, but they all deserve to be heard. They have invited me up for the evening to do an interview on CML.

Thanks to J. Randall Collier for the *Country Music News* from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., the Billy Martin, Howard Vokes and Del Reeves Fan News, the tape letters from John Quinn in Scotland, the Stockholm photos from Bjorn, Kjell, Bengt and Jan (Swedish CML subscribers), and the *Folk Voice* from Yorkshire, England.

The weeks around the first of December found many artists in town recording and TV guesting—Sheb Wooley, Charlie Rich, The Stoneman Family, Debbie Kaye, Johnny Cash, the Statler Brothers, Bill Carlisle—which promises a lot of good future listening. This time also found a flock of artists on the trek overseas—Jim Edward Brown (who recorded in the German language), Jimmy Dickens, Roy Acuff and Billy Walker. Vocalist Frances Winfrey from Murfreesboro, Tenn. was the new girl with Roy on this trip. They went to Viet Nam, Korea, Japan.

Everyone seems to be joining Country Music in some way or other. Recently we attended the Liberace Concert and obtained an interview. Could anyone be that great, we wondered. He is. I asked him if he liked our type music and he said yes, very much. I questioned if he were just saying this, out of politeness, because he is a gentleman to the *nth* degree. "I like it to the extent that I plan doing an album of my interpretation of country and folk music."

Some of Nashville's really nice guys have some fine releases going. Roy Bee has "The House is Empty" and on the same label Grant Turner sings "The Maco Light." Arkie the Arkansas Woodchopper has out Cecil Null's "My Daddy Was A Rabbit, My Mama Was A Grizzly Bear." Thanks for all the mail and so long.

Southeast Notes continued from page 7

sponsor/station relations is purchasing green blazer-type jackets for each of its five deejays to be worn at all station-sanctioned functions, including a one night a month outing for the deejays and their wives to a night club or show that is a sponsor on WDON. The radio station will be "picking up the tab" for this monthly fun event and hopes it will help the deejays

get re-acquainted, since they rarely see each other due to different schedules.

Once again Country Music will be seen via the Washington video tube in the way of Tom Reeder's Country Music Time featuring the String-Dusters and Bob Taylor on UHF Channel 14. This will be a half hour show running from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. A show of this sort has been needed for some time here.

Only one advance "date" as of this writing - Margie Bowes, January 14-15, Hunter's Lodge, Fairfax, Va. with the String-Dusters.

A belated Happy New Year—see ya next month.

Midwest Notes continued from page 7

like Country Music—it's plentiful here! The big news right now is the planned re-opening of Sangamon Country Music Park near Cisco, Ill. next May with a C&W show each Sunday, camping facilities, horseback riding and ferris wheel for the kids, and gospel music sings. Bill and Sue Wood are the ambition and determination behind this venture—one bad month, August of '65, hasn't stopped these folks. People were not yet aware of the park; shows could not be booked enough in advance; and even the weather was unfavorable. All this will be remedied this year, knowing Bill—he will fix the weather problem. Oh, yes. He did say when he called to tell me about the good news, "I plan to put up a building for you all to get in if we have the cold and rain again." So you see, he is determined. Fans, support the Country Music Park nearest you!



"Hold My Hurt For Awhile"

BOBBY BARNETT

BY

THIS MONTH'S GUEST WRITER

Devvy Davenport



Bobby Barnett recorded a song called "Hold My Hurt For Awhile" not so long ago, and rightly so, for the life of an entertainer is not as you would suspect, all champagne and roses. Especially for Bobby who is considerate, deep, shy, and a very conscientious person. There is a line in the song that goes, "There's a heartache that I've got, and it sure hurts a lot." We'd say that pretty well spells out our boy. He has worked hard to fulfill his ambitions. To date Bobby has not obtained the epitome of his goal. In other words he has not become a star, only in the sense that most people use the word star. In our book, he *is* a star. Yet most people refer to a star such as Johnny Cash, Buck Owens, Marty Robbins, Roger Miller, etc. Though he has all these required qualities, such as looks, humility, drive, persistence, and above all, talent. This would of course account for the hurt. And is there one of you out there who would deny he has good reason. But Bobby is not a complainer—yes, it hurts, for he has all the ingredients to become a star. Now it's up to the mixing—Enter Earl Perrin, secret agent 007, to put it in the present day vernacular. Earl has brought Bobby a long way in a considerably short time. Now we're getting ahead of our story. Let's leave agent 007 for a moment and return to our country boy.

Bobby was born in the small town of Cushing, Okla. Up until a couple of years ago he was a nine to five boy, working for the El Paso Natural Gas Co. in Oklahoma City, Okla. Life was beautiful and all the world seemed bright. At least to most everyone, but Bobby . . . there was a conflict within him as to whether he was really doing what he wanted. Was this to be his life? Would he be a nine to five boy forever? Could this be what or all he wanted from life? Why

BOBBY Barnett spreads wide the doors of the famous Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is one of the many fine clubs which Bobby and his group appear.



An annual event at Tombstone Arizona's Hell-dorado Days is the appearance of Bobby Barnett "In Concert" at famous Schieffelin Hall.

couldn't he do something in music which he loved so? When at last he added up all the questions, the answer was evidently . . . NO! For it was about that time that Bobby made his decision. He would leave a steady job that he liked and give his first love—music—a try. For isn't it written, "To thine own self be true" . . . ? First he would go out and find himself. Then he could return either to his steady job with all the security and be satisfied, or make his mark in the world and be truly happy.

Now poses the question, can this country boy find happiness as a recording artist in the city? We would have to say an emphatic YES! But with definite mixed emotions. There is always some degree of hurt that accompanies all happiness. For if it were not for tears, we would not know joy.

Bobby works steadily, hard, and well. But the road to success is long. To start any journey one must take the first step. Enter once again Earl Perrin (our agent 007) whose headquarters is Buena Vista Productions in Phoenix, Arizona. Unlike the modern day secret agent, James Bond, Earl's essentials are not

guns, special made cars or flame throwers. Yet Earl is well equipped, but with records, booking contracts, TV shows, auditorium shows, and all the rest that goes to make a top notch manager and booking agent. Here we might add, that this secret agent's secret is his success. Earl has managed Bobby for the past couple of years, and put his name on the map so to speak. But again maps have roads and Bobby's map has definitely got the road to success.

We'd say yes, this country boy has found happiness in the city. Also an extra added attraction, he found not only fame, but peace within himself. For Bobby Barnett is doing what he was born to do—sing.

In case (although we don't know how) you are one of the few who haven't heard his records, or seen him perform, you're in for a treat.

He deserves all the adjectives known to show business. Since they are so often overdone, let us just say he rates with the best.

Another line in "Hold My Hurt For Awhile" goes. "If I went back where I begun," well Bobby did go back and he now makes his home in Oklahoma City. He has his family there, and all his wonderful friends. Only now, he has fans too!

For the past three years he has been recording for Russell Sims of Sims Records in Nashville, Tenn.



When Bobby gets some spare time he likes to put on his levis and ride out into the desert.

Bobby is quite a song writer, and has written some of his record successes. Here he works out a new song on a handy piano.



Bobby chats backstage with Johnny Cash at a recent package show in which they were both starred.



Bobby Barnett appears at a rally for Barry Goldwater.

Bobby has had many fine recordings that have reached the national record charts on that label. Among them are "She Looks Good To The Crowd," "Worst Of Luck," "Hold My Hurt For Awhile," "Mismatch," "I Fall In Love With Every Pretty Girl I See," "Best Man" and his latest, "If I Was Me." He also has a very fine album called "Bobby Barnett At The Crystal Palace." The latter was cut at the famous saloon in Tombstone, Arizona. Bobby's Sims Records have been sold all over the world.

Now his agent and manager, Earl Perrin, has opened a new page in his success story. Bobby now joins with his good friends, George Jones (a real fan of Bobby's), Jimmie Klein, and "Pappy" Daley on his new recording venture for Musicor Records. His first releases for this label will be in early 1966.

Now someone (possibly some new up and coming artist) will "Hold The Hurt For Awhile." Bobby is on his way and there's no stopping him.

C/W FAN CLUBS

REX ALLEN
Mrs. Wilma Orr
160 E. Bonita Way
Benicia, Calif.

REXINE ALLEN
Myrtle Evans
5112 So. McVickers Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60638

BILL ANDERSON
Frances Cox
5440 Holland Dr.
Arvada, Colo. 80002

ERNEST ASHWORTH
Alice Meyers
582 Chapman Court
Santa Clara, Calif. 95050

MABELENE "ANGEL" BAKER
Kitty White
1517 Main St.
Sharpsburg, Penn. 15215

BOBBY BARNETT
Joanne & Janice Vogt
121 So. Ninth St.
Broken Arrow, Okla.

BOBBY BROWN
Mary North
3343 Chestnut Ave.
Baltimore, Md.

GARY BRYANT
Carolyn Lindquist
718 E. First
Arlington, Wash. 98223

SMILEY BURNETT
Clifford Barnhart
Deposit, N.Y.

CARL & PEARL BUTLER
Opal Haryman
1008 S. Oak St.
Champaign, Ill. 61822

BOBBY BUTTRAM
Barbara Phillips
Box 624
Roswell, Ga. 30075

JERRY BYRD
Millie Annis
3122 Clyde Park S.W.
Wyoming, Mich. 49509

BUDDY CAGLE
Donna Lee
Box 47
Bell, Calif.

SWANEE CALDWELL
Fay McGinnis
1156 - 21st St.
Wyandotte, Mich. 48192

TEX CARSON
Ann Wright
610 Kuschke St.
Plymouth, Penn.

CARTER FAMILY
Mr. Freeman Kitchen
Drake, Kentucky 42128

WILF CARTER
Eleanor Burdo
Box 151
Florence, Mass.

CATES SISTER
Glenn's Mollohan
Rt. 2, Box 84
Fleming, Colo. 80728

BILL CLAIRBORNE
Eula Penrod
722 W. Grand River
Howell, Mich. 48843

ORVILLE CLARIDA
Ruth Spencer
P.O. Box 1946
Oakland, Calif.

COMPTON BROTHERS
Mrs. Beatrice Wilcox
7601 Richmond Hwy.
Alexandria, Va. 22306

STONEY & WILMA LEE COOPER
Billie Martz
2709 Martha St.
Hammond, Ind.

DAN CURLY & WILMA ANN
Mrs. Fay McGinnis
1156 - 21st St.
Wyandotte, Mich.

JERRY DANIELS
Barbara Lehman
4510 - 61st St.
Des Moines, Iowa

JOE DANN
Pat Gehrls
Reese, Mich. 48757

LITTLE VERN DAVIS
Kathy B.
P.O. Box 458
Evansville, Wy. 82636

SKEETER DAVIS
Barbara McGray
980 Morrish Rd. Rt. 3
Birch Run, Mich.

BOBBY DEAN
Helen M. Clark
Box 1861
Erie, Penn.

JIMMY DEAN
Mrs. Betty Hunsaker
3413 E. 61st St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64130

VONNIE DEAN
Onelda Wain
P.O. Box 605
Sterling, Colo. 80751

BILLY DEATON
Erna Hoff
Box 583
Bellville, Texas

GLENNA DENE
Blanche Hobson
New Harmony, Ind.

EDDIE DRAKE
June Thomas
P.O. Box 5404
Long Beach, Calif.

ROY DRUSKY
Nora Barnes
4465 Beachwood Rd.
Bay City, Mich.

TIBBY EDWARDS
Ann Paulson
1742 Vivian St.
Shreveport, La.

BUDDY EMMONS
Barbara Allen
1068 Lewis Dr.
Benton Harbor, Mich.

BILL FLOYD
Shari Lynne
2215 - 21st W.
Bradenton, Fla.

JOHNNY FOSTER
Dot Jarrell
Rt. 1, Box 92C
Varnado, La.

REX FRANKLIN
Ginny Peters
14 Busby Pl.
Palmerston No.
New Zealand

BOB GALLION
Voria Dotson
306 Sixth St.
Williamstown, W.Va. 26187

RUSS GARNER
Darlene Tolley
8351 Pine St.
Fairchild AFB, Wash.

SONNY GEORGE
Jackie Walker
N. Pleasant Ave.
#3 Stiles Apt.
Dallastown, Penn.

DON GIBSON
Virginia Pontesso
2625 So. 8th St.
Terre Haute, Ind. 47802

BILLY GRAMMER
Maire Kerby
Rt. 1 Box 105
Mulberry, Ka.

CLAUDE GRAY
Habel Samland
1635 N. Wildwood Rt. 7
Garden City, Mich.

COL. GREEN
Alice Kennison
1644 Scarey Ct.
Hazelwood, Mo.

CONNIE HALL
Barbara Frantz
2202 Campbell Dr.
Champaign, Ill.

GEORGE HAMILTON IV
Dody Varney
6646 Old Plum Rd.
Fort Edward, N.Y. 12828

ESCO HANKINS
Mrs. Jean Powers
102 Goodrich Ave.
Lexington, Ky. 40503

FREDDIE HART
Ardelle Matthews
312 S. Farr Rd.
Spokane, Wash. 99206

JERRY HATTON
Linda Richards
Sheet Harbour RR 1
Halifax, N.S. Canada

KITTY HAWKINS
Barbara Jones
1627 Francisco
Pueblo, Colo.

BILLY HENSON
Dee Mackelberg
935 Morningside S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302

CURLEY HERDMAN
Kathryn A. Younker
Box 274
Pennsville, N.J.

BOB HOBAN
Patricia Coffman
Rt. 4
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

JOHNNY HORTON
Billie Laabs
5516 Woodlawn
Seattle, Wash.

JIM HOWARD
Emily Anglin
455 Pegg Rd. S.W.
Atlanta, Ga.

FERLIN HUSKY
Mary Dunn
207 Dunlap
Lansing, Mich.

STONEWALL JACKSON
Ethel Hammock
Rt. 3
Bethpage, Tenn.

SONNY JAMES
Carol Evlosic
4126 Johnson St.
Gary, Ind.

PENNY JAY
Gale Martin
Box 127
Paul Smith's, N.Y. 12970

LA WANDA JOHNSON
Tom Farrell
200 Waylon St.
Marietta, Ga.

GEORGE JONES
Marjorie McCoy
15609 Mainbocher
Channelview, Texas

TOMMY KATO
Virginia Kalkan
Box 164
St. Clair Shores, Mich.

CLAUDE KING
Peggy O'Riley
3211 Windsor
Kansas City, Mo.

BOB "BAREFOOT" KINNEY
Cliff Barnhart
39 Allen St.
Deposit, N.Y.

DON KIRKLAND
Barbara Phillips
RR 1
Roswell, Ga.

DOUG LA VALLEY
Margie Wilki
414 Adam St.
Lthaca, N.Y.

GLEN LEWIS
Barbara Jones
1627 Francisco
Pueblo, Colo.

HANK LOCKLIN
Margaret Mack
714 Phosphor Ave.
Motaire, La.

BOBBY LORD
Luane Kelly
8492 Eastriver
Minneapolis, Minn.

LILA LOU
Mrs. Pat Wood
Box 3
Honeybrook, Penn.

JUDY LYNN
Mrs. June Hucker
Box 7439
Las Vegas, Nev.

BILL MARTIN
Kay Culbert
410 Mackinaw St.
Saginaw, Mich. 48602

LORETTA LYNN
Loretta, Ludilla, & Kay Johnson
P.O. Box 177
Wild Horse, Colo. 80862

JIMMY MARTIN
Mary Ann Garrison
Rt. 2, Box 568
Palmyra, Penn.

MERLE MATTS II
Freda Barrows
Rd. 2
Harpersville, N.Y. 13787

BUDDY MEREDITH
Dorothy Boreison
Rt. 3, Box 31
Rapid City, S.D. 57703

MIDWEST COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB
Mary Ann Cooper
Brettwood Box 2145
Decatur, Illinois 62526

BLACKIE MINOR
Bettye F. Kendall
2255 Julian
Denver, Colo. 80211

MELBA MONTGOMERY
Peggy Steelman
P.O. Box 274
Helena, Ark.

DOTTIE MOORE
Janet Ready
5877 Sheridan Rd.
Saginaw, Mich. 48601

GEORGE MORGAN
Mary Thompson
1702 William Rd.
Urbana, Ill.

JAMES O'GWYNN
Shirley Johnson
Box 247
Grissold, Iowa 51535

JOHNNY O'KEEFE
Judy Pearson
822 Louis St.
Dallas, Oregon

BONNIE OWENS
Beverly Nelson
P.O. Box 1133
Taft, Calif.

BUCK OWENS
P.O. Box 128
Edison, Calif.

BILLY PARKER
Joanne & Janice Vogt
121 S. Ninth
Broken Arrow, Okla.

JIMMY PATTON
Dee Hackelberg
935 Morningside S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302

JOHNNY PAYCHECK
Mary Alice Luttrill
P.O. Box 298
Muskegon, Mich. 49443

BILL PHILLIPS
Barbara Huss
P.O. Box 884
Harrisburg, Penn.

RAY PRICE
Sandra Orwig
P. O. Box 786
Harrisburg, Penn.

continued on page 37



The many sides.....of a many faceted

WARNER

MACK



By RED WILCOX

Seems like the most successful beginning for a country artist today is either via the route of disc jockey turned artist . . . or ball player turned artist!

Warner Mack fits into the latter slot, in a league with Jim Reeves, Roy Drusky, and Roy Acuff. In fact, after completing high school, Warner had a choice of two different football scholarships or a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. His love for sports, however, was secondary to his love for country music. This actually turned out in his favor because the last Decca hit for Warner would have sounded a bit odd—had he been singing "The Bridge Washed Out And I Can Swim." Let's face it—with him and "his baby on the same side," there would have been no story!

Warner's story started in Nashville not too many years ago where he was born. In fact, he was born just a few blocks from where he recorded his first record—"Is It Wrong." For nearly a year this record "rode the charts" and was one of Warner's own compositions.

Warner's dad was a Protestant minister and the family left Nashville for Vicksburg, Miss. soon after Warner started elementary school. Undoubtedly, it was in the "deep south" that he became such a real southern gentleman and picked up the "down home" sentiment, attitude, and accent. Today Warner is still a very devout person and deeply religious. He has his own beliefs and lives them—but always with a "live and let live" policy toward the other fellow. Warner does not work the club circuits only because he sincerely believes that while most people can cope with themselves in any place, a very few simply cannot. For these few who cannot, Warner would rather meet them in an outdoor park or family-type show. Then too, Warner finds home life, marriage, and the family far too serious a matter to be the subject of the bawdy jokes expected on the club circuits.

Tall, amply-proportioned Warner is the father of three, and they and his lovely wife Peggy keep the home fires burning in the Mack's Nashville home while Warner is out on the road. A very pretty home it is too—with early American furniture in the living room and modern in the bedroom—reflecting owners of diversified tastes and interests. His hobbies reflect this same diversification too—from the challenging physical effort of bowling to the quietness and solitude of fishing.

With his reddish auburn hair, you might expect a man of fiery temperament—yet Warner is exactly the opposite. And with the hair coloring, the freckles, and the boyish grin, you would expect his eyes to be green or blue—but they are brown!

In November of 1964 when Warner was severely injured and hovering near death from a car accident in Indiana, his comeback recording "Sittin' In An All Night Cafe" was just starting to catch on. Without Warner "out in front" of the record to promote it, alert the disc jockeys, and sing it on personal appearances, it stood a good chance of being buried in the avalanche of records that always come out around disc jockey convention time. Again, contrary to what would be expected, this record went on to win BMI awards and enjoyed a long stay on the national charts. Then came "The Bridge Washed Out," a record that reached the number one spot! The first time that "Sittin' On A Rock" came in on one trade publication's top 50 charts, it was No. 31.

Personable Warner is a man of many talents, including songwriting. Some of his compositions are "Surely," "The Least Little Thing," "I'll Be All Right In The Morning," "Blue Mood," "All Night Cafe," "Then A Tear Fell," "My Love For You," and "I Wake Up Crying." Some of his songs recorded by other artists are Webb Pierce's "Last Night," Kitty Wells' "Dasher With The Light On His Tail," Brenda Lee's "Love Words" and "Memory Mountain" recorded by both Pat Boone and Wanda Jackson. The title of his new Decca album is "The Bridge Washed Out."

In the new movie being filmed in Nashville during October (tentatively entitled "Music City, U.S.A."), Warner's acting ability can be seen as well as his singing talent. Sometime after the first of the year, he will be the first country singer to be doing a jingle for a nation-wide soft drink bottling firm.

Warner has earned many impressive awards, among them a huge trophy from SEASAC for "The Bridge Washed Out." In the movie just mentioned, he is being presented an award by Bob Austin of Record World, which is a re-enactment of an actual presentation that took place at the Disc Jockey Convention Awards Breakfast. This award was presented to Warner Mack—"Outstanding Male Artist For 1965."

THE JIM & JESSE TELEVISION SHOW

By BEA and RED WILCOX

The large sign on the outside of the building announces "WRBL-Channel 3." The town is Columbus, Ga., and the taping of four Jim and Jesse television shows is about to begin. The clock edges toward 10 a.m.

The large studio is a beehive of activity. There are a lot of extra things in the studio, such as extra backdrops, a piano, and a dining room suite left from another show that must be cleared out before the Jim and Jesse props can be put into place. Alan Sheldon is off in a corner "limbering up" his banjo fingers. Jim and Jesse are in another corner working out a song. Ray Pillow is tuning his guitar. Special guests, The Compton Brothers, are also tuning up guitars and voices. Jim Brock is laying out his second suit of clothes near the set—his "Slim Whatnor" character striped coat, oversized glasses and pudgy hat, and trying to tune his fiddle at the same time. Ray Kirkland drags his bass fiddle around trying to find somebody that isn't busy that he can "tune to." Promotional Director Marty Darity is helping the camera crew get situated and talking over what "shots" will be

taken. There is a momentary lull as about thirty school children on a field trip come in and settle down—pencils poised over notebook pages ready to take notes for their school project. The personal manager of Jim and Jesse and Ray Pillow—Joe Taylor, is calming everybody down while he gulps all the coffee himself. The sound engineer asks for a few "licks" on the instruments and a few words over the mike so that he can set his dials for a perfect balance.

Suddenly you hear — "Ten Seconds." Just as suddenly everything becomes "church mouse" quiet. *Five!* A coffee cup is hurriedly removed from the set. The cameraman continues the count-down with his arm until suddenly his hand drops and on the monitor you see "Grand Ole Opry—Jim & Jesse and The Virginia Boys." Jim and Jesse step up to the microphone to harmonize together on a song selling the sponsor's product, and the Jim and Jesse TV Show is underway.

As you sit there watching, you can't help feeling a little smug, knowing that you are having a "sneak preview" of what the viewers in seven states must



JIM and Jesse "share the honors" in front of a rustic setting.

wait four weeks to see. You are amazed at the casual air permeating the premises—somehow you expected television to be more formal. But you like the informality and try not to laugh aloud or clap too loudly as you become intrigued with the show.

Jim and Jesse sing "Memphis" and you just know it has never been better. Ray Pillow sings his latest record also—"Thank You Ma'm," and you watch Jesse sneaking off the set with a broken mandolin string and a big ear-to-ear grin across his face. Alan Sheldon comes up for a banjo solo of "Buckaroo" and you watch the monitor to see the closeups of his fingers "pickin' out the melody." The Compton Brothers sing their recording of "Still Away" and Tom and Bill Compton try not to laugh at the seriousness of younger brother Harry, who usually is never serious. Ray Kirkland sings "Why Don't They Go Home" and drags his bass back again to his spot. Suddenly "Slim Whatnor" stands before you in his "stylish" clothes, and it is hard to believe that the Jim Brock who just played that toe-tapping fiddle tune and this comic are one and the same person. Slim "flubs" a line and Ray Pillow runs all over the set laughing, "I just knew he'd forget the punch line." But a visitor to a set should be quiet, so you muffle your own laugh as you say to yourself, "I'll have to remember that when I get outside so I can laugh too."

Mr. Darity comes up with a strange looking object. It is a large piece of plywood with strange shapes cut out of it. You try to figure it out and a quick look at

continued on next page

COMIC character Slim Whatnot is really fiddler Jim Brock.



THE Compton Brothers, special guests, are getting "set" before the cameras roll.



ALLEN Sheldon does some real banjo pickin'!



ALLEN Sheldon "fatigued" after a "hot" banjo solo. Below: special guest Ray Pillow in front of microphone.



the monitor explains it all. One camera is focused on a "cut out" of a "cross" and the other on Jim and Jesse as they sing their hymn for the day. Say, that is really pretty.

Suddenly it is all over. You look at the clock and realize that two hours and 40 minutes have gone by. Four half hour tapes have been done and you try to figure how it was possible in so short a time after the scene changes, coffee breaks, and referrals to the "script sheet." In just a few minutes now, the other studio will be used for a newscast, so all the props just removed from this studio before the Jim & Jesse show are now hurriedly brought back for restorage. Back come the backdrops, the piano, and the dining room suite! But the taping is done now, and Jim and Jesse and their road crew pile back into the blue and white bus, with "Jim & Jesse" on the front of it, to drive the 350 miles or so back to their homes just outside Nashville.

Tex Ritter continued from page 17

is "Border Affair," a musical gathering of Texas-Mexican border melodies like "Cielito Lindo," "En El Rancho Grande," "Guadalajara," "La Cucaracha," "Las Golondrinas," "El Vaquero Triste," and "A Border Affair." This album is sung totally in Spanish. Tex's Camay album entitled "Deck of Cards" contains several Western classics like "Billy The Kid" and "The Old Chisholm Trail," sung in a delightful and compelling way that only Ritter can do.

With such a sound background in Southwestern folklore and music as this modern symbol of the West has, it is no wonder that Tex Ritter is so often referred to as America's MOST BELOVED COWBOY.

Editor's Note: In 1944 Tex Ritter captured the first three spots on Billboard's most played juke-box tunes in America charts with I'm Wasting My Tears On You (which he helped write), A New Moon Over My Shoulder, and Jealous Heart. In 1961, his recording of (I Dreamed Of A) Hillbilly Heaven sold more than a million copies and made Billboard's top ten records charts. And his latest single, Bummin' Around b/w Take Him Fishin', has made the charts in some areas and is done in that moving style that has made Tex famous.

PACKAGE OF PICTURES OF YOUR STARS

16 PICTURES 16



George Jones	Johnny Cash
Norma Jean	Wynn Stewart
Ray Price	Marion Worth
Melba Montgomery	Faron Young
Marty Robbins	Dottie West
Minnie Pearl	Gene Autry
Hank Snow	Margie Bowes
Sonny James	George Morgan

ONLY \$2.00

In Arizona, -- it's

SAFFORD'S FUN CENTER!

the **MATADOR**
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
"Where the STARS Are"

• Nationally Famous Stars Nightly
• Top Atmosphere • No Cover or Minimum

Buena Vista MOTOR HOTEL, SAFFORD

Country Music
LIFE

P. O. BOX 2366
EL MODENO STATION
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR PACKAGE OF 16
PICTURES. I AM ENCLOSING \$ _____
FOR _____ SETS AT \$2.00 EACH.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

FAN CLUBS

continued from page 34

MARVIN RAINWATER
Jeanie Lloyd
31-26 35th St.
Astoria, L.I., N.Y.

REVIEW OF STARS
Evelyn Otteson
114 - 1st St. W.
Lake Wales, Fla.

GEORGIE RIDDLE
Pansy Milam
6036 Agnes
Kansas City, Mo.

TOM RIVERS
Mrs. Bessie Stephens
P.O. Box 273
Shawnee, Okla 74801

MARTY ROBBINS
Peggy Ann Munson
3811 Wylly Ave.
Brunswick, Ga.

JACK ROBERTS
Mrs. D.J. Sawyer
P.O. Box 1743
Seattle, Wash. 98111

VINCE ROBERTS
Edgar Jones
2977 Bailly St.
Lincoln Park, Mich.

EARL SCOTT
Ann Fischer
Box 242
Earlville, Iowa

JOHNNY SEA
Bessie R. McShan
Box 443
Beaumont, Texas

JIM SHAW
Linda Rodich
3847 East 38th St.
Des Moines, Iowa

SUSIE SIGMAN
Janice Pfeiffer
53 East Channel St.
Newark, Ohio

SMILIN' JOHNNIE
Actie Glover
3746 Elm Valley Rd.
Andover, N.Y.

LOU SMITH
Annie Wright
Box 885
Tatum, N.M.

HANK SNOW
Mrs. Ada Hayes
126 State St.
Gallipolis, Ohio

STANLEY BROTHERS
Wilma Ganyea
176 Sparta Rd.
N. Wilkesboro, N.C.

JIMMY STEPHENS
Mrs. 11a Mae Rutter
212 Miller Ave.
Weirton, W. Va. 26062

OTT STEPHENS
Teresa Simpkins
Rt. 4, Box 670
LaFayette, Ga.

WYNN STEWART
Frances Fuller
P.O. Box 6420
Minneapolis, Minn.

TALL TOM
Betty Lou
4424 Grimsby Dr.
San Jose, Calif.

JOE TAYLOR
Mary Shaffer
Rt. 1
Osseo, Mich.

GORDON TERRY
Valerie Lee
P.O. Box 11184
Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

BOB THOMAS
Dolly Unberger
Rt. 3
Myerstown, Penn. 17067

HEL TILLIS
Larry Little
909 W. Ionia
Lansing, Mich.

ERNEST TUBBS
Norma Barthel
Box 219
Roland, Okla.

LEROY VAN DYKE
Alice Meyers
582 Chapman St.
Santa Clara, Calif.

HOWARD VOKES
Kitty White
1517 Main St.
Sharpsburg, Penn.

BILLY WALKER
Kaye Myers
2700 Broadmoor
Wichita Falls, Texas

REM WALL
Patricia Corser
3801 Gardner Rd.
Parma, Mich.

HACK WARNER
Eula M. Penrod
722 W. Grand River
Howell, Mich. 48843

SHORTY & SHOKEY WARREN
Evelyn Wollenhaupt
116 Price Rd.
Linden, N.J.

BOBBY WAYNE
Darlene Tolley
8351 Pine St.
Fairchild AFB, Wash. 99011

ROGER WHITE
Myrtle Warrick
226 Lake St.
Kent, Ohio 44240

HANK & AUDREY WILLIAMS
Eva Weissmann
4721 N. Leavitt St.
Chicago, Ill.

GARY WILLIAMS
Miss Ardelle Mathews
312 S. Farr Rd.
Spokane, Wash.

SHEB WOOLEY
Doris Izldro
4 Raymond Court
E. Haven, Conn.

THE NEW!

1966 **COUNTRY MUSIC**
LIFE

CALENDAR

AND

DIARY

Filled with pictures of your

COUNTRY

STARS



Buck Owens • Roger Miller • Johnny Cash
Skeeter Davis • Porter Wagoner • Eddie Arnold
Norma Jean • Marian Worth • Jimmy Dean
Loretta Lynn • and many others

ONLY \$1.00

AVAILABLE ONLY BY MAIL FROM
COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE

COUNTRY MUSIC
LIFE

P. O. BOX 2366
EL MODENO STATION
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE SEND THE OFFICIAL 1966 COUNTRY
MUSIC LIFE CALENDAR. I AM ENCLOSING \$____
FOR _____ COPIES AT \$1.00 EACH.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

SUBSCRIBE TO



THE LEADER

In The Country Music Field

- ★ LOTS OF PICTURES OF STARS, ENTERTAINERS, BOTH ON STAGE AND OFF!
- ★ NOT ONLY FEATURES AND ARTICLES, BUT LOADS AND LOADS OF NEWS OF COUNTRY MUSIC! (COUNTRY LIFE HAS PHOTOGRAPHERS AND REPORTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE.)
- ★ A MAGAZINE THAT NOT ONLY FEATURES YOUR FAVORITE STARS, BUT ALSO REPORTS ON UP AND COMING PERSONALITIES.
- ★ MONTHLY SCHEDULES OF STARS' BOOKINGS, SO YOU KNOW WHO IS APPEARING IN YOUR HOME TOWN OR WHERE YOUR FAVORITE STAR IS GOING TO BE.
- ★ TIPS ON ENTERTAINMENT TECHNIQUE! FOR ALL OF YOU UP AND COMING ENTERTAINERS OR ALL WHO HAVE HOPES TO BE, ACTUAL TIPS AND METHODS TO KEEP AN AUDIENCE COMPLETELY THRILLED!
- ★ REPORTS ON THE BIGGEST HITS, THE TOP TUNES AND THE NEW ONES COMING UP!
- ★ THE LATEST NEWS OF "COUNTRY" TV AND RADIO SHOWS.
- ★ COMPLETE FAN CLUB GUIDE!
- ★ AND MANY PLEASANT SURPRISES THAT WE HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU!

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

MAIL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IN NOW!

ONE YEAR \$5.00

TWO YEARS \$9.00



Life Story of JOHNNY CASH
FREE! While they last!

This valuable booklet regularly sells for \$1.00. Get your copy free with a subscription to Country Music Life. Supply is limited — so act fast.



P.O. BOX 2366
EL MODENO,
CALIFORNIA

YES...

I want to subscribe!
Here is my subscription!

☐ \$5.00 One Year

☐ \$9.00 Two Years

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zone _____

Canada or Overseas—Add \$2.00

Send Cash, Check or M.O.—Payment must accompany order.

WHERE THE STARS ARE SHINING

CARL & PEARL BUTLER	JANUARY	MARVIN RAINWATER	
Davenport, Iowa	2	Minneapolis, Minn.	1
Houston, Texas	8	Davenport, Iowa	2
Ponchatoula, La.	15	HANK SNOW	
Port Huron, Mich.	21	Indianapolis, Ind.	1
ARCHIE CAMPBELL		St. Louis, Mo.	2
Spartanburg, S. C.	1	CARL SMITH	
CATES SISTERS		Des Moines, Iowa	1
Wichita, Kans.	1	Minneapolis, Minn.	2
Kansas City, Kans.	2	Milwaukee, Wisc.	8
JIMMY DICKENS		Chicago, Ill.	9
England	1	Rockford, Ill.	11
Houston, Tex.	8	Madison, Wisc.	12
Chicago, Ill.	9	Houston, Tex.	29
Minneapolis, Minn.	10-15	RED SOVINE	
Milwaukee, Wisc.	16	Little Rock, Ill.	1
DUKE OF PADUCAH		Tulsa, Okla.	2
Wichita, Kans.	1	Kansas City, Mo.	3-6
Kansas City, Kans.	2	Houston, Tex.	8
LEFTY FRIZZELL		New York-Canada area	20-30
Des Moines, Iowa	1	HANK THOMPSON	
Minneapolis, Minn.	2	California area	11-22
JOHNNY WRIGHT & KITTY WELLS		JUSTIN TUBB	
Houston, Tex.	8	Oklahoma City, Okla.	1
Texas area	10-15	Milwaukee, Wisc.	8
Omaha, Neb.	21	Pennsylvania area	27-28
Topeka, Kans.	22	New Castle, Pa.	29
Kansas City, Kans.	23	PORTER WAGONER	
Sioux Falls, S. D.	25	Indianapolis, Ind.	1
Sioux City, Iowa	26	St. Louis, Mo.	2
Lincoln, Neb.	27	Roanoke, Va.	13
Salina, Kans.	28	Lynchburg, Va.	14
Wichita, Kans.	29	Charlotte, N. C.	15
GRANDPA JONES		Norfolk, Va.	16
Charlotte, N. C.	15	Tampa, Fla.	23
Norfolk, Va.	16	Louisiana area	25-30
GEORGE MORGAN		BILLY WALKER	
Little Rock, Ark.	1	Davenport, Iowa	2
Tulsa, Okla.	2	DOTTIE WEST	
Jacksonville, Fla.	7	Des Moines, Iowa	1
MINNIE PEARL		Minneapolis, Minn.	2
Indianapolis, Ind.	1	WILLIS BROS.	
St. Louis, Mo.	2	Minneapolis, Minn.	24-29
Houston, Tex.	7-8	MAC WISEMAN	
Oklahoma City, Okla.	21	Toronto, Canada	1
WEBB PIERCE		FARON YOUNG	
Little Rock, Ark.	1	Davenport, Iowa	2
Tulsa, Okla.	2	Houston, Tex.	8
Houston, Tex.	8	Spokane, Wash.	21
New York-Canada area	20-30	Washington State area	22-29
CARL PERKINS			
Toronto, Canada	24-29		





Riding HIGH!

Buena Vista STARS
...on their way!

BOBBY BARNETT

"America's New Star"
Personal Management:
Buena Vista Productions
Bookings:

Jimmie Klein Agency
Vidor, Texas



PATSY MONTANA

"America's Most-imitated
Western Girl Singer"



WAYLON JENNINGS
"RCA Victor's Talent Find"



MONTIE MONTANA JR.
"King of the Fair and
Rodeo Circuit"

Booking Arrangement



LEON MCAULIFFE
"America's Top
Western Band"



SLIM RUSSELL
"The
Swinging-Singing
Editor"



WOODY STARR
"Zany New
Country Comedian"



THE MAVERICKS
"Sensational New Country
and Western Show Band"

Buena Vista Productions



ALSO REPRESENTING MANY OF
AMERICA'S TOP ROCK & ROLL
AND GO-GO BANDS!

EARL V. PERRIN, Pres.
29 EAST MONTEREY WAY
PHOENIX, ARIZ. 85012
AREA CODE 602-264-9364