

FEBRUARY 1968

50c

*Country Music*  
**LIFE**

- *PORTER WAGONER*
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**Next Month In**

**EDDIE DOTTIE LITTLE**  
**ARNOLD WEST JIMMIE**  
**DICKENS**

"TIPS FROM THE TOP" BY GEORGE MORGAN  
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.

**Country Music LIFE**

# editorial

I recently read an article in a fan club journal "roasting" the DJs for not playing and programming records by the unknown and little known artists. The writer further proclaimed their position to make or break a record by the amount of exposure they give a particular record or artist.

This could be a "who came first—the chicken or the egg" type question: do the DJs select the records they want to play, and by playing them *make* them hits . . . or are they selecting discs that the public wants to hear — requests?

On the one hand, most advertising propagated by the record manufacturers in such trade publications as *Billboard*, *Cash Box* and *Record World* is slanted to the DJs to encourage them to play this or that record—that so and so is going to be a hit, and that such and such will be Number One in a couple of months!

These same publications carry advertising by the artists thanking the DJs for playing a particular record which has made the charts!

According to this, the DJs select their own records and thereby make the hits!

Hold on a minute . . . How can a DJ or a station make a record Number One in the nation? A radio station's "area of influence," even a 50,000 watt station, covers a very small area of the United States. In order to control the "hits" there would have to be an elaborate network of cooperation between DJs and radio stations all over the country.

On the other hand, many of the stations publish a top 50 or top 100 list every week. These are based on the number of plays that a given record received during that week. The exposure charts that are published in the trade publications portray the number of plays that records have received all over the country. When the same record appears on these charts, from a cross section of stations all over the nation, the answer seems obvious—they are the most popular because the fans want to hear them.

Like "the chicken or the egg" . . . the reason there doesn't seem to be a conclusive answer is because both sides of the argument are right and both sides are wrong!

I have never been a disc jockey, but it seems apparent to me that the top tunes are played by the radio stations because they *are* the top tunes — the most popular—the ones the fans want to hear, records that are pleasant, humorous, interesting — but satisfy the listener—so he will continue to keep tuned to that station — so the station can advertise and sell their sponsors' products!

I further believe that the DJs program their time first with the top tunes they *must* play, and secondly with the records they *want* to play.

How about these records they *want* to play — discounting all of the "payolla" scandals of a few years ago, assuming now that the DJ is influenced only by his own judgement — who is in a better position to judge what is worthy of playing and what is not? Thousands of records are sent to radio stations during the

year . . . some excellent, some good, some fair, and some horrible!

I have received promotional records (usually be unknown labels) which were terrible, not just according to my personal taste, but musically very, very bad. The orchestra badly out of tune, the "artist" singing a half tone flat, and some of them couldn't carry a tune in a wash tub!

Should the DJ subject his listeners to this? Obviously not!

There is one way to keep the "hit making" decision out of the hands of the DJs — and the answer lies with you, the fans. You buy the records; you should control the "hits."

Mail requests to your radio station for the records you want to hear. If the DJ's program is filled with requests he *must* play, he won't have time left on his program for the ones he would *like* to play!

## Michigan News

By JENNY REECE

Under the auspices of Gladys McKeon, Michigan's Country Music Association has been organized and incorporated. Elected officers are Jack Wilkerson, WYSI Radio, Ypsilanti, Mich.; Jimmy Mitchell, WEXL Radio; and Gladys McKeon.

The Association is state wide and has eight vice presidents and 32 board members. In six weeks it has acquired 331 members and all but one of Michigan's Country Music radio stations are members.

The Grand Ole Opry headed by such headliners as Marty Robins, Ernie Tubbs, Dave Dudley, Charlie Louvin and Bill Anderson appeared here recently and packed Cobo Hall. The Opry will return for another engagement February 6.

Bill Anderson and his Poe Boys played January 2 in Saginaw, Mich. Ferlin Husky and Marvis Thompson played to a full house in Pontiac on December 4. Ferlin and lovely Marvis took the crowd by storm.

Square dancing and country music are blooming out all over the state with the incorporation of the Michigan Country Music Association. Gladys is thankful to her many friends who have helped in setting up the Association. We have a representative in Canada — Roger Quick, R.R. No. 4, Park Hills Ontario, and urge Canadian Country Music fans to contact him if they are interested in becoming members.

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# Johnny Dollar Loses \$\$\$\$

As warbled out by singer Johnny Dollar, "Tear Talk," enjoys only the No. 6 spot on the country music hit parade, but it may have gained in pathos yesterday whatever it may have lost in the way Johnny presents it.

What it lost in the way Johnny presents it were three cowboy suits someone swiped from a 1965 Cadillac parked late Monday night in the 1000 block of Vermont Avenue NW in Washington, D.C.

One was studded with silver rhinestones and another with gold rhinestones and police valued each of those at \$600. A third, garnished with blue rhinestones, was valued at \$1300, police said.

In addition, Johnny missed five plain old \$100 suits, he reported, and the Cadillac's owner, George Hamic, a regional representative of the Horizon Land Corp., of Arizona, also reported a lot of his stuff taken.

Police reckoned the total take in excess of \$11,600 and said the prowler got into the Cadillac by breaking a vent.

It wasn't a complete tragedy, the two victims conceded. Hamic said the thief overlooked about \$325 worth of cashier checks and securities worth \$700.

Johnny said his red cowboy boots were still there, too.

*(Reprinted from the Washington Post.)*

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<input type="checkbox"/>	GLAD I FOUND JESUS	THE GOSPEL-AIRES
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## TEN TOP TUNES



1

### GIDDYUP GO

Red Sovine—Starday 737



2

### MAKE THE WORLD GO AWAY

Eddy Arnold—RCA Victor 8679



3

### BUCKAROO

Buck Owens—Capitol 5517



4

### SITTIN' ON A ROCK

Warner Mack—Decca 31853



5

### WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

Dave Dudley—Mercury 72500



6

### MAY THE BIRD OF PARADISE FLY UP YOUR NOSE

Little Jimmy Dickens—Columbia 43388



7

### FLOWERS ON THE WALL

Statler Bros.—Columbia 43315



8

### WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'

Don Gibson—RCA Victor 8768



9

### WOMEN DO FUNNY THINGS TO ME

Del Reeves—United Artists 943



10

### HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU

Johnny Cash—Columbia 43420

# TIPS FROM THE TOP

## BUCK OWENS



*continued from last month*

It seems to me, however, that before you can even start looking for your recording contract and subsequent record releases, you've got to have a good manager. Maybe your brother-in-law, or the guy next door, is okay if all you want to do is play local clubs and earn union scale, but chances are he hasn't got a clue when it comes to negotiating a record contract, TV or radio show, and probably wouldn't know a hit song if it hit him in the nose. The right manager is the man who's been in the business for at least a few years, earns his living there, and knows the proper contacts, for what good is he to you if you find the doors closed to both of you? There's no substitute for experience.

With the right manager, you're not likely to make a serious mistake in choosing a record label. Unfortunately, there are too many disreputable people ready to take advantage of a novice, and it's too easy to sign with one where you pay for your own session, buy your own records and get them promoted and distributed the best way you know how, with absolutely no help at all from the label. A manager who knows who's who in the business will be able to steer you clear of this kind of deal.

So now, let's assume you have the right management, the right recording contract, and you've recorded a song that has all the potential of a hit—and somebody makes a mistake in timing. An extreme example of this would be releasing a Christmas record in June.

Of course, nobody knows exactly when is the right time to release a particular record. No matter how much experience you have, it's always possible to guess wrong. Here, more than anywhere else, it would appear that luck is the major factor.

A word now about your personal reputation. At the risk of sounding like a do-gooder, can you expect to inspire confidence in a booker who has never met you if, when he mentions that he is thinking of using you on a tour, people smirk? Too many people are too quick to condemn, if doing so will serve their selfish interests. If you give them cause to speak of you as "that perpetual drunk" ... "loves a party and the wilder the better" ... "rather fight than not"—whether it's wholly true or not—don't think they'll hesitate to pass along the "goodies"!

*continued on page 36*

# Nashville



## NOTES



By  
PAUL AND RUTH CHARON

With the holidays over, we want to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank everyone for the festive cards and letters.

Nashville celebrities busied themselves during the Christmas season playing benefit shows for children's hospitals and other charitable organizations. Roy Acuff has returned from his tour of Viet Nam and other Asiatic spots to cheer up the boys who couldn't be home. Along this theme, good ole Stringbean has a new Starday release: "That Crazy Viet Nam War."

Good news — Billy Grammer, Minnie Pearl and George Morgan return as regular members to the Grand Ole Opry. Billy formed his own guitar company and has production flowing nicely. Ralph Emery returns to the WSM nite show joining Tex Ritter, as Grant Turner goes back to the day shift and Bill Claiborne ventures out into several business projects of his own.

Jim Edward Brown has been touring in Germany and recording more songs in that mother tongue. Compliments are running around town concerning new RCA artists Bobbi Staff and Vernon Oxford. The talents of 4-year-old Caroline Binkley and 15-year-old Debbie Kaye on their Columbia recordings are terrific. Ask Louis Buckley, prominent record shop owner. After many successful years on Hickory, Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper have switched to Decca records. Thanks to Bill Williams, public relations mgr. at WSM for the current Opry star news. Norma Jean will be working the road on her own contractual dates, while Jeannie Seely tours on the personal appearances with the Porter Wagoner Show.

Ernest Ashworth moves from Acuff-Rose agency to work out of Moeller Talent, currently swinging with a new disc, "I Wish," and he wishes it will sell a million. Ernie and Bettye will be moving back in their home (three rooms have been completely rebuilt after being destroyed by fire.)

Congratulations go to Connie B. Gay and his wife Katherine on the birth of Cecilia Mary, November 22. Skeeter Davis is singing the praises of teenage Sandra and Donna, on their duo vocal act. They are from the talented Rhodes family of Memphis; papa is Dusty, and mama was Patsy Montana's guitarist some years back. Dusty, Spec and Slim have been a prominent show biz family for a long period of time. The girls have written some of the songs that are on Skeeter's album. February finds her touring to Texas with musicians Paul Charon and Ronnie Light. They played four New Year's package shows with Bill Anderson,

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# Midwest

## NOTES

By  
MARY ANN COOPER

Sammy C. (Canzoneri), Chicago C&W promoter, is going to hold a big Midwest Country Music Festival August 20-21, 1966, at the International Amphitheater. A banquet for C&W celebrities is to take place Friday the 19th at the Rivoli Club, which is operated by Mr. C. As some of you know, my friends and I were planning an event with that same title (which we came up with well over a year ago) to be held in St. Louis in May. This we are cancelling altogether! Our reason for it in the first place was just that we felt the Midwest needed something of the sort—now that bigger people with bigger names and much more support are sponsoring a festival, there isn't anything we can do but give up our idea and chalk up to experience all the hard work, time and money already spent in the project. Our deepest thanks to all the wonderful people who have shown interest and have helped with the publicity—especially Marvin L. Hoemer, Maxine Johnson, and Mrs. Kennison. Much success Sammy C., and to everyone concerned with the MCMF—I hope to be in attendance; it sounds just great!

How about a cheer-up card for a country music friend? Delmar Williams is in St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. After two heart attacks, he will be inactive until at least March. He is a young man and the inactivity will be tough to take. I first became acquainted with Delmar several years back when he was managing a young lady named Dottie West before her move to Nashville. His latest "find" is Jack Lionell, brother to Earl Scott. Jack's first recording is "Passing Fancy" b/w "Was She Worth It" on the Nashville Label.

The 1965 "Gavin Report" gave several honors to WJJD—including to Chris Lane as the Radio Man of the Year and to "Honest" John Trotter as Number One C&W Deejay.

A radio station recently changing to an all country format was WGNU, Granite City, Ill. Our congratulations to Chuck Norman and everyone concerned. WGNU held a big celebration to mark the change.

Here in Central Illinois, Bill and Sue Wood of Monticello are hard at work on plans to reopen their "Sangamon Country Music Park" near there in the Spring.

DJ Jack Hayden in Clinton, Illinois has a burning ambition—to get a call through to Khrushchev on the air! Anyone know where Nikita is these days? Don't let Hayden know. Afraid WHOW would scream at a phone bill that size. Jack said to let the world know he is 19 on January 30 . . . world . . . Jack had a birthday last month. (Too late for gifts . . . sorry!)

New Year's Eve in person guests on Mike Hoyer's "Country Music U.S.A." program over WHO Radio (Des. Moines) were Red Sovine, Dottie and Bill West. Mike's show is just six months old now, but practi-

*continued on page 36*

# Southeast

## NOTES

By RED WILCOX

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, 1966, got off to a "noisemakers and horn blowing start" in the Washington, D.C. area with country music ushering in the New Year. In Alexandria, Va. on New Year's Eve, a huge crowd was on hand at the Alexandria Roller Arena for a show sponsored by the Dunn-Loring Volunteer Fire Department and starring Stonewall Jackson, Johnny Dollar, Jim & Jesse, Ray Pillow, Melba Montgomery, Archie Campbell, Luke Gordon, and Jay Earle & The Country Rockers (from the York, Pa. area) as the backup band. The following day the same show played in Gettysburg, Pa. to a tremendous turnout of country fans. On hand for both shows was WNOW Deejay Bob Englar. Incidentally, Bob Englar will open Elicker's Grove Park, indoors, for dances on Saturday nights beginning January 8. For those at home for their celebrating there was the Tom Cat Reeder Country Music Time television shows over WOOK-TV (Washington) on both nights at 8:30. These shows of Tom's star the Stringdusters band and some Nashville talent. Also premiering on New Year's Day on WMAL-TV, Washington's Channel 7, was the Porter Wagoner show. This show is seen at 7:00 p.m.

Broadcasting country music over both television and radio seems to be the "big thing" these days around D.C. The weekend country music dances at Dairyland, Jessups, Md., are now being broadcast remote by WXRA Radio, Woodbridge, Va. On Saturday nights, the country music on WEEL Radio, Fairfax, Va., comes a la remote from Cleve's Pizza.

Congratulations to WLMD, Laurel, Md.—a brand new station. Ray Haney, whom many of you will remember from the Old Li'l Rascals Show on Washington TV a few years back, does a two hour country show on this 900 KC spot on your dial every afternoon Monday thru Saturday. Air time is noon til 2:00 p.m.

Country WDON Radio and her sister "good music" stereo station WASH, combined forces for a big Christmas dinner and party at the Anchor Inn in Wheaton, Md. during Christmas week. All of the staff was invited and a good time was had by all.

Pretty, smiling Betty Rogers is eagerly getting ready to start her new job. Only the details are left to be worked out but Betty will be working for Buck Owens and the Omac Artists Corp. in a public relations capacity, further cementing the wonderful relationship between Buck and the country DJs. In the summer Betty's job will involve quite a bit of traveling. With Betty's personality, this job will certainly be "a natural" for her.

Red Allen and The Yates Brothers have a new single and a new album due out any day now on Country Records. The boys just recently completed a tour of Rhode Island and Connecticut with Jimmy Stephens and the New England Country Gentlemen.

Buck Owens will be on hand January 15 in Wheeling

*continued on page 36*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

FREDDIE Hart missed sending one Christmas card this year he hoped to send. He hasn't been able to locate Eli Timaschumia in Arkansas. Freddie was attacked in an alley and left to die; Eli found him, took him home and cared for him till he'd recovered. He also taught Fred the art of self defense, which led him to become interested in Judo, in which Fred now holds the coveted "Black Belt." Freddie's "Hart Of Country Music" continues to be a top LP seller.

\* \* \* \* \*

WARNER Mack is the first country artist to record jingles for the Coca Cola people.

\* \* \* \* \*

ROMCO Records' artist Bill McClure recently was guest on the Jamboree from KTVH-TV in Wichita. His "The Biggest Ole' Heartache" seems to be doing real well for him.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLIE Louvin is now the proud owner of a new bus to transport his new band around the country. The Compton Brothers also have a new bus. And not to be outdone by the male side of show business, Loretta Lynn will soon have her own band and bus!

\* \* \* \* \*

LEON McAuliffe is currently completing plans to syndicate a new TV show to be produced out of Oklahoma City. He is also reactivating Cimarron Records.

\* \* \* \* \*

RETURNING from a tour of Germany, Italy and France, Columbia artist Billy Walker reported an "exceptionally good" reception both for himself and his entertainment entourage. To satisfy the German Country Music market, the traveling Texan plans to re-record two of his hit records, "Charlie's Shoes" and "Cross The Brazos At Waco," in German. The session will be monitored by special CBS German tutors. He is already booked for another 25-day run on the Continent in July 1966.

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE Men In My Little Girl's Life," a talking, singing version of a father's reminiscence, has been recorded by RCA Victor artist Archie Campbell and is being rushed through production for an early release. The Pop version of the song was an immediate hit by Mike Douglas on the Epic label. Nashville Victor officials decided to cover it with a country version and the session was so successful that an early release was requested and granted. The song is backed with "Abe Lincoln Comes Home."

\* \* \* \* \*

EDDIE Miller, believe it or not, has counted 61 releases on his classic country standard "Release Me" and in eight different languages! You'd think this would satisfy him for a week—but no! How's five record releases in one week for a writer? Buck Owens, Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb and Ray Sanders are the artists representing the week's work from the song factory. Oh well, better luck next week Ed!

\* \* \* \* \*

A baby girl, named Ivy Summer, was born December 10 at St. Thomas hospital in Nashville to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burch. Wt. 8 lbs. He's Cedarwood Publishing Co. songwriter ("Dream On Little Dreamer," "PT-109").

\* \* \* \* \*

CINDY Street, popular country music vocalist from Peoria, Illinois, appeared on Rem Wall's, "Green Valley Jamboree" over WKZO TV, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Scheduled to sing three numbers, Wall was so pleased with her singing that she was asked to do a fourth song. She is scheduled to make a return appearance in the near future.

\* \* \* \* \*



VETERAN songwriter-singer, Redd Stewart, has been signed to an exclusive writing contract by Acuff-Rose Publications, according to Wesley Rose, president of the firm. Stewart is the co-writer with Pee Wee King of "Tennessee Waltz," an Acuff-Rose property which was recently declared the State song of Tennessee by Governor Frank G. Clement. Stewart started his career as a fiddler with the Golden West Cowboys, and until the late Fred Rose advised him to "throw away the fiddle and sing," he worked many background recording dates for the major country stars of that earlier day. He is the writer of such classics as "You Belong to Me," "Slow Poke," "Bonaparte's Retreat," "Tennessee Tango," "Which One Is To Blame," "That's A Sad Affair," and the sacred song, "Thy Burden Is Greater Than Mine," among many others.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE Victor Co. of Japan (no relation to RCA Victor) has signed a contract with Country singer Dottie West enabling them to manufacture and sell the "Dottie West Guitar" in all countries of the world except Japan. The guitars will be available in many size and price variations and will go on display in Nashville. Other artists signing similar agreements with the Japanese firm include Ferlin Husky, Bill Anderson, Roy Drusky, Charlie Louvin and Skeeter Davis.

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

BOBBY Griggs carries a pocketful of postcards with him everywhere he goes, trying to keep up with thank you notes to DJ's all over who are fast making his "Not What He's Got On His Mind" something on Country Music fans' minds. This has been a real "sleeper" seller. In areas that exposed it, the Tower record has lingered in top 5 selling spots for two and three months.

\* \* \* \* \*

LONGHORN Prez Dewey Groom can't decide whether it's good or bad that so many people are reacting vocally to his new Janet McBride' release, "Common-Law Wife." Janet doesn't seem to mind all the fuss and just keeps working all those show dates that the excitement of the record have created for her. Curtis Leach keeps right on singing that "Golden Guitar," one of Longhorns' most pleasant problems to date.



BRINGING joy to even the smallest heart, Nashville nice-guy Archie Campbell makes Christmas Goodwill rounds at the United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee Day Care Center. Above, supervisor Jean Stubbs and Archie help one of the children call Santa. Archie's visit was arranged by Nashville attorney John Jay Hooker Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

WSM Radio announced the return of Minnie Pearl to the regular cast of the station's Grand Ole Opry. No definite date was set for the return.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN a joint statement, Dewey Groom, president of Longhorn Records and Marvin L. Hoerner, president of Marvin L. Hoerner Enterprises, midwest artist and record promotion firm, announced this week that the Illinois based firm will be handling promotion on all Longhorn records, in the upcoming year. Longhorn Records, Dallas, Texas, based label, presently has two releases, "One Man Band" by Phil Bough and "Golden Guitar" by Curtis Leach, showing chart action across the nation. Janet McBride's "Common Law Wife" and Billy Gray's "Rotten Love" are in the process of being released.

\* \* \* \* \*

"KEEP The Flag Flying," Johnny Wright's follow-up to his successful "Hello Viet Nam" single, appears to be following in the exact footsteps of its predecessor. According to Decca Records, the single is headed for the Top 40.

\* \* \* \* \*

LITTLE Jimmy Dickens, The Willis Brothers and Norma Jean have been booked for a February 25 engagement at Carnegie Hall. The following day they will play the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York.

\* \* \* \* \*

"ROGER Miller's Golden Hits" album is approaching million dollar sales figure, reports Charles Fach of Smash Records. Package, he says, is the biggest in the five-year history of the label. Released October 15, the Miller LP has topped the 350,000 in the ensuing two-month period to top every previous album put out by Smash. The inclusion of Miller's current hit, "England Swings," is responsible for the behemoth sales, Fach believes. Smash felt so strongly about the potential of the new record back in September when the album was being prepared, because an advance dub which was prematurely released in Nashville, and indicated the enthusiastic response to the single. The certification of the "Golden Hits" album would be Miller's second \$1,000,000 seller. His first RIAA award-winning album was "The Return of Roger Miller." Officials of Smash Records attribute the rapid rise of the album to heavy radio spot advertising on the album in 15 key cities, including Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Philadelphia and others. Mercury's Richmond record pressing plant has been running 24-hour schedules because of the demand for the Miller album, Fach stated. In addition, the Indianapolis RCA-Victor custom division plant has been running large additional orders for the album which could not be produced in time for Christmas delivery by the Indiana Mercury plant. If all processes necessary for certification can be completed in time, the presentation of Miller's second RIAA album award will be made on his NBC-TV special.

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

COUNTRY artists Dottie West and Hank Snow were booked by Nashville's Moeller Talent to appear Jan. 3 and 10, respectively, on the American Barndance, a syndicated TV show out of Chicago.

\* \* \* \* \*

TEMPORARY help was hired by Nashville's radio station WLAC to help handle an absolute avalanche of mail generated by disc jockey Bob Jennings' "Giddy-up Go" album proposition. Jennings promised all who wrote in, forwarding a check to cover costs, an early copy of Starday Record's new "Giddyup Go" album by Red Sovine. An added bonus to be pitched in the package was a sticker with the album's title emblazoned in glaring red. Within three weeks, over 1,400 letters had deluged the radio station's front offices, and according to Jennings, the flood shows few signs of slackening.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMPLETED negotiations between Gerald W. Purcell Associates Ltd. and Dottie West, RCA Victor recording artist, were announced by Eddie Cummings, Purcell representative. The negotiations authorize the Purcell organization to handle, exclusively, arrangements for all television appearances by the artist. Her personal appearances will continue to be handled by Moeller Talent Inc.

\* \* \* \* \*

MARVE Hoerner, president of Hoerner Enterprises, announced that a recent survey in the 13 midwest states disclosed that there are over 420 radio stations now programming country music, with over 900 DJ's spinning over 100,000 hours of country wax per week.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUST because a guy prefers house slippers to cowboy boots doesn't necessarily mean that he's gone soft in his old age. Carl Smith's Toronto, Canada audience found this to be true this week when they gathered together to watch their hero tape his weekly Country Music Hall. Instead of stomping his feet to a rip snortin' hoedown, host Carl hobbled about before the cameras on a swollen leg and dampened spirit Reason: A freakish accident caused the horse he was riding, last week at his Franklin, Tenn. ranch, to take a tumble and bust Carl's ankle in the process.

\* \* \* \* \*

VERNON Glen, popular Illinois entertainer and recording artist, recently signed an exclusive recording contract with Sims Records. Russell Sims signed Glen during the DJ Convention. After the signing, Glen cut his first session for the label at Bradley Studios. Sims was so enthusiastic with the results that the sides are being released far ahead of schedule and another session has already been set for the first of the year. Featuring leading Nashville musicians, including Billy Grammer and Pete Drake, the tunes, "Looks Like I'm Gonna Fight Again" b/w "Arizona Jake" show great promise for the young Illinois entertainer.

\* \* \* \* \*



WITH a mounted peacock in the background, Little Jimmy Dickens turns out in his latest Nudie creation, a multi-sequined Bird of Paradise suit valued at \$500. The ornate garb is one of two costumes Dickens had made up as a tribute to his hit single "May The Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose."

\* \* \* \* \*

JOHNNY & Jonie Mosby have dates set into the last part of February. They'll cover 14,000 miles in a three weeks big Northwest tour. Their Ban-Dar Club in Ventura continues to be the "IN" place for that Johnny Cash community. John lives in Casitas Springs near Ventura.

\* \* \* \* \*

SKEETS McDonald, Columbia Crooner has carved a carefully calculated collection of country class in his "Big Chief Buffalo Nickel" (The old "Desert Blues" of the legendary Jimmie Rodgers) which is making much noise and creating a great deal of excitement, not only at the McDonald house, but among many who like to latch onto something fresh and different.

\* \* \* \* \*

Seems Elvis Presley no longer has the only famous colonel-manager in the business. Not since Buck Owens' manager Jack McFadden received his Colonel's commission from Georgia Governor Carl E. Sanders. On a recent visit to Atlanta, Jack had been told that he was being made a private in the Georgia militia. This he believed, until his scroll arrived and engraved on it, in big letters, he read the word "Colonel!"

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



"C RATIONS." Family fun for the Billy Walker family consists here of baking cookies to be sent to Viet Nam. Helping Mama (left) prepare the goods for a Sewart AFB airlift are (top to bottom) Tina Kaye, Columbia recording artist Billy, and Julie.

THE next LP for Columbia Records artist Billy Walker will be titled "Nobody But A Fool," after his successfully selling single out at present. The new album is due for release early this year.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUDY Lynn will star at the Southeastern World Championship Rodeo & Exposition scheduled in Montgomery, Ala. for March 16-19, and in the San Angelo Fat Stock Show & Rodeo in San Angelo, Texas March 10-13.

\* \* \* \* \*

BILL Williams, promotions director of Radio Station WSM, has announced that four of the 12 entertainers who left the Grand Ole Opry last year will definitely return in 1966. They are Johnny Wright, Kitty Wells, George Morgan and Billy Grammer. Minnie Pearl is thought to be inclined to return, but no reports regarding this have been confirmed. A dozen artists left the Opry last December as a result of failing to meet the requirement for 20 personal appearances annually. In addition to those mentioned, others include Don Gibson, The Jordanaires, Faron Young, Ferlin Husky, Justin Tubb, Stonewall Jackson and Ray Price.

\* \* \* \* \*



BILL Denny (left) and John Denny (right), both officers of Cedarwood Publishing Co., flank professional manager Jan Crutchfield and a mockup of the company's new record label, Robe Records. Cedarwoods' creation of the new record line is for the express purpose of bringing Gospel music to the buying public in quantity and quality. A "unique sound" in Gospel music will characterize the new label's first album, according to Jan Crutchfield, who has been named to monitor the enterprise by president Bill Denny. The album referred to was recorded in mid-November at Bradley's Barn and will feature The Prophets, an Oak Ridge, Tenn. group, when it becomes available next month. Several singles will be released out of this album and future ones. Crutchfield explains the "unique sound" as being attributable to both the material and groups which will record on the label and points out that he is currently talking with other groups about recording on the Robe label. Future recordings will be made at Cedarwood sound studios.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE pride of OMAC Artist Corp. this month is "King of the Strings" Joe Maphis. Joe has been set for four consecutive guest appearances on ABC's Jimmy Dean Show—the first time in the history of the show that any guest star has been signed to appear four weeks in a row. Buck Owens and his Buckaroos also returned to the show in December and another appearance January 21.

\* \* \* \* \*

AFTER attending the annual meeting of the International Association of Fairs and Exhibits, Jack Andrews of Moeller Talent Inc. is predicting that "next summer's outdoor fair season should be the most active ever for Country artists. Based on the number of interviews and negotiations with buyers this year as compared to previous years, I would say that the 1966 fair and outdoor exhibit season will far exceed anything we've experienced to date. Perhaps the number of fairs played by our talent next year might increase by as many as 35 or 40."

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS



ERNIE Ashworth (right) Hickory recording artist and Moeller talent vice president Jack Andrews swap congratulations after the artist signed an exclusive booking contract with the Nashville talent agency. The unapparent humor was because Ernie's first Moeller booking landed him in jail! With Carl and Pearl Butler, The Duke of Paducah, Dottie West and The Willis Bros., he played a Christmas special Dec. 23 at the Kentucky State Reformatory, LaGrange, Ky.

\* \* \* \* \*

THOSE who were fortunate enough to be acquainted with his tremendous talents were shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Curtis Leach. His star had begun to rise, with his songs having been recorded recently by Bill Anderson, Hank Thompson, Wynn Stewart and more. Dewey Groom, Longhorn Records president, whose current Curtis Leach release "Golden Guitar" is considered the sleeper of the year, predicts that Curtis' name will be well known for years to come with only the things he left us that are yet to be heard.

I think you should know the kind of man Dewey Groom is: the day of Curtis' death, he called the trades to postpone the scheduling of a full page ad he had purchased in the interest of a Curtis Leach album previously set for early January release. When reminded this would be the opportune time to release the ad and the album, Dewey said: "I don't need the album that bad! I'll wait till the shock of his death has subsided, then I'll release it." Maybe that's not intelligent business, but it's certainly a sign of an unselfish man who has great respect for a friend and business associates' passing.



BILL Price & The Country Partners are currently breaking records with their personal appearance tour throughout the South.

\* \* \* \* \*

IT was "Buck Owens Day" beyond a doubt in Anderson, S. C. the day the singer appeared in that city recently. When Buck landed at Anderson's airport he was met by the mayor, chief of police, fire chief, senators, press, radio and television luminaries. There was a parade through the city in Buck's honor, followed by a luncheon where the mayor presented to Buck the key to the city. On the same tour Buck was named Greenville, Tenn. No. 1 Honorary Citizen, and commissioned a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Georgia Militia.

\* \* \* \* \*



DECEMBER 12 at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium, Tommy Nobis awarded a trophy to the winners of the 4th annual K-BER Talent Discovery contest. Contestants Ricky Holveck and Mark Donahue in addition to the trophy, will receive a recording contract with Longhorn Records. K-BER's owner, A.V. Bamford, stated that 97 entries were received for this big annual event, and that the ten finalists appeared on stage at the auditorium and all received prizes and trophies.

\* \* \* \* \*

# NEWS NEWS NEWS

CARL Smith, Dottie West and Ferlin Husky and The Hushpuppies would up the fabulously successful 1965 C&W season with a December 31 performance at Mayor Civic Center, Rochester, Minn. The next day Lefty Frizzell joined the same package to kick off the new Year with a January 1 performance in Des Moines, Iowa.

\* \* \* \* \*

WYNN Stewart reported he lost a brand new hand carved guitar, returning from an extended tour. It had been hand made and given to him by a fellow he once befriended in Altus, Oklahoma. After eight years, the fellow, who asked to be un-named, completed his project and brought it to Wynn on an appearance in his area. Wynn said it broke his heart that he didn't even get it home.

\* \* \* \* \*

KITTY Hawkins cut another session for Doc Whiting's Capa Records. In what is described as a "perfect answer to Johnny Wright's 'Hello Viet Nam,'" Kitty cut the Tom Hall tune, "Good-bye To Viet Nam." Backed by "I Hate Myself (Cause I Love You)," this release is proving to be her biggest hit for the Mobile, Ala. based record firm.

\* \* \* \* \*

ROY Orbison (who gave a modern beat to country music and became a recording sensation) has been signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to make his motion picture debut in "The Fastest Guitar in the West," to be produced by Sam Katzman early in 1966. The youthful Orbison, a native of Tennessee, has made a succession of hit singles and albums. In "The Fastest Guitar in the West," Orbison will portray a Union cavalry officer who has the unique assignment of trying to return some stolen gold to the Sacramento mint without being detected. Of course, Orbison will sing half dozen numbers.

\* \* \* \* \*

RUSSELL Sims, president of Sims Records, and Marvin L. Hoerner, president of Marvin L. Hoerner Enterprises, midwest artist and record promotion firm, announced that the Illinois based firm will be handling promotion on all Sims releases in the upcoming year. Sims Records, noted Nashville based country label, presently has two releases chart bound. Any station missed in the original mailing of Kay Arnold's "Where Were You" and Tony Douglas' "It Didn't Help Much" may receive a copy by dropping a note on station letterhead to Hoerner Enterprises, P.O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois.

\* \* \* \* \*

JACK Reno of KLLL in Lubbock, Texas writes that a new recording company has opened in Lubbock and is going great guns—"Banner Records." The new firm has signed Elton Williams, Jimmie Peters and Joan Reynolds. Banner's first release, "The Biggest Man," is doing real well, Jack says.

\* \* \* \* \*

PETER and Gordon, popular Capitol recording artists from Liverpool, England, arrived in Nashville December 15 after a five hour delay because of poor landing conditions. The pair and their manager Keith Avison were tired (it was 4:00 a.m. London time) but happy to finally arrive in "Music City U.S.A." Hundreds of teenagers jammed the reservation desk phone lines wanting to know when they would arrive. Many of the fans patiently waited at the airport the full five hours to meet the young men and get their autographs. The next four days found them on a busy schedule of press conferences, TV interviews and, of course, their main purpose for being in Nashville—recording a C&W album for Capitol Records. Ken Nelson, A&R chief from Capitol's Hollywood office and Marvin Hughes, the A&R chief and manager of Capitol's Nashville office, will be directing the sessions which will use local Nashville musicians as sidemen on the session. This will be the pair's first country & western album which they have looked forward to for a long, long time. Both Peter and Gordon like country music and told reporters they are looking forward to recording with the "Nashville Sound." Following their sessions in Nashville, the pair flew to New York before returning to England.

\* \* \* \* \*

BUCK Owens and a raft of Country ladies and gentlemen put on a show to end all shows incorporating their efforts with the Marine Corps' "Toys For Tots." Buck and the Buckaroos, Wynn Stewart, Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens, Billy Mize, Rose & Joe Maphis and more, plus a long skinny guy from Plainview who just happened to be in the area and accepted Buck's invitation to share the blessing: Jimmy Dean and his boys, the Chuck Cassidy Singers made a quick 119 mile trip by car to Bakersfield from their Hollywood headquarters at ABC-TV. Needless to say, there were thousands who brought "Toys For Tots" and took home a warm Christmas spot in their hearts and a mighty musical in their minds! Hats off to all who had a hand in making it something special.

\* \* \* \* \*

The latest addition to the evergrowing list of syndicated Country and Western TV shows was announced today by Faron Young Enterprises. "The Faron Young Show," featuring Faron Young, Dottie West and the Marijohn Singers as regulars, will be filmed at KLPR-TV in Oklahoma City and distributed nationally. Reports to date are that 40 markets have committed themselves to the show. The 30-minute shows will feature a fast moving format with varied settings.

\* \* \* \* \*

Chet Atkin's December 24 Christmas present to RCA songstress Dottie West was her latest album, out ahead of schedule. Entitled "Dottie West Sings," the LP features many of the more popular songs made famous by the artist.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Forty Million People Can't Be Wrong.....*

# PORTER WAGONER

By  
FRANK HARRIS

As the face of Porter Wagoner faded from the TV screen and the commercial started to tell me how many fewer cavities I would have next year if I used their toothpaste, I marveled at the vastness of television. *Forty Million people* were watching this same Porter Wagoner Show!

I tried to visualize forty million people. Wrigley Field in Chicago holds fifty thousand; the Coliseum in Los Angeles holds one hundred thousand. Let's see—that would be the same as filling the Coliseum four hundred times! Again, I was lost in the magnitude of the viewing audience of the Porter Wagoner Show.

When this well programmed, fast moving show first made its debut in early 1960, it was syndicated to 18 stations, primarily in the South. Today it is syndi-

cated to 70 stations all over the United States. The success of this popular show hasn't been like Topsey; it hasn't "just grown." It's success can be credited to the likeable, green-eyed, sandy haired, six footer — the perfectionist — Porter Wagoner.

Porter Wagoner and the Wagonmasters, featuring Norma Jean, comprise a talent package which is one of the "hottest" in the business today. 1966 is only a few days old, but this package is practically sold out for the rest of the year.

It all started when Porter, in his teens, got his first job as a butcher-clerk in a market in White Plains,

*BACKSTAGE at the "Opry;" Leroy Van Dyke, Dwight Barker, Hank Snow and Porter.*





PORTER, Mac Magaba and George McCormick go over a couple of ideas just before showtime at a recent appearance in Birmingham, Ala.

Missouri. Every day when he went to work he brought his guitar, hoping to play a little during lunch and slack periods.

One day the boss suggested that Porter present a song session for the customers. He did and they *loved it*, so the boss telephoned the local radio station to contract for a 15 minute program five days a week with his clerk as the featured performer.

Porter's program was on the air every morning at 6:00 a.m., when he played and sang and did the commercials. It wasn't long before this 15 minute show was getting everybody in town up at 6 a.m. to hear the most popular musical program in West Plains!

The success in his own home town led to a contract on KWTO in Springfield for a weekly series. It was shortly after this that the Ozark Jubilee was born on this same station, and with it, his introduction to Red Foley. Red took Porter under his wing and taught him many of the knacks of successful showmanship.

As in most success stories—one step leads to another — and Porter Wagoner was recording for RCA Victor. His recording of "A Satisfied Mind" was not only an instant hit—it was selected as No. 1 of the year! Porter Wagoner was really on his way.

In 1957 he joined the Grand Ole Opry where he was welcomed with open arms by fans and company.

An almost unbroken string of hit records includes such all time greats as "Green, Green Grass of Home," "I've Enjoyed As Much Of This," "Misery Loves Company," "Sorrow On The Rocks" and many more.

Porter Wagoner is not only a star — an artist — a performer — *he is an institution!*



# PORTER WAGONER

## As I Know Him.....

By RUTH CHARON

Anyone in this land of ours who has tuned in to a Country Music radio program has heard the voice of Porter Wagoner. An established star, yet still searching for ways to improve himself, Porter is constantly looking for material to please his fans and variety for the Country Music world. He weighs all new invasions to the record industry with thought, but he has found a consistent preference for the pure country music and costume. This ability and forethought have brought his syndicated TV show to stations all over the U.S. and warranted most of his records to chart selections and national hits.

According to Judy Meyers, his secretary at Porter Wagoner Enterprises where he does put in an occasional 8-hour day, Porter's schedule is so heavy that he is hard put to find time off for his favorite hobby, golf. But somehow he does cram it in and the results are scores in the low 70's and a tan that contrasts nicely with his sparkling white smile. This outdoors look sets off to advantage his western stage clothes.

Porter Wagoner and the Wagonmasters record on the RCA Victor label and his new release "Skid Row Joe" is their biggest selling Country Western single.

Porter's publishing company is called "Carreta," meaning "wagon" in Spanish.

In line with the popular boy-girl duet trend, Skeeter Davis joined Porter on the RCA album, "Porter Wagoner And Skeeter Davis Sing Duets."

The Wagonmasters band group consist of Mac Magahe, dance stepping fiddler; Buck Trent, banjo;



PORTER appears here at one of the Nashville Christmas parties. Left to right: Vernon Oxford, Dixie Deen, Ruth Charon, Bill Claiborne, Porter.



*PORTER Wagoner performs at the "Opry."*

George McCormick, guitar; Don Warden, steel; and Spec Rhodes, comedian-bass fiddler. Although Norma Jean still appears with the group on the television show, Jeannie Seely takes over that spot on the road tours. They have been seen weekly since 1960 on WSM, filmed and syndicated—pioneers of the business.

This massive exposure, plus an almost unbroken run of hit records, are significant evidence of this singer's popularity. Says Porter, "Country music has been great to me and I will do my best to carry out the desires of the fans, keeping the good, clean, country image. Forever, will I be grateful for the response and help received along the way."

His personal manager and partner for the past 18 years is band member Don Warden, who also hails from West Plains, Mo., Porter's home town.

His booking agent is hard-working W.E. "Lucky" Moeller.

The Wagonmasters now sport their own records with "Stampede" by Buck Trent on one side b/w "There's A Woman" by George McCormick. Mac has a recording contract with the Bragg label, headed by Neil Wilburn.

Mac and George have recently held a weight losing contest. Mac won by 1½ lbs. with a total weight loss of 19 lbs.—pretty good, we'd say.

Porter and the Wagonmasters are forever active—with a great show, working very closely together—always looking for and welcoming ideas from fans.



*PORTER and the Wagonmasters "On Stage."*



*THE elaborate hand work in the tailoring of Porter's suits is shown on the back of this outfit.*



*PORTER poses with "Mr. DJ - USA," Lloyd Evans of KEBA, Springfield, Mo.*

# The Cinderella Story of

## CONNIE SMITH

By FRANK HARRIS

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Cinderella . . . . . *Connie Smith*  
Fairy Godfather. . . . . *Bill Anderson*

### SUPPORTING CAST

*Loretta Lynn*  
*George Jones*  
*George Morgan*  
*Jimmy Dean*  
*Bobby Lind*



Cinderella took off her glass slippers, slipped on her fancy western boots, picked up her guitar, and walked out on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Thunderous applause rocked the Ole Opry House as "Cinderella" Connie Smith stood before the microphone. Fulfillment of a life-long ambition was hers . . . to appear at the most famous institution of Country Music - The Grand Ole Opry.

The butterflies in the pit of her stomach . . . the nervousness of appearing with the greatest names in Country Music, left her completely as she started to sing.



The audience was hushed now, listening and straining to hear every word, every note and every chord as the cute and pretty "Cinderella" sang her smash hit, "Once A Day."

The story of Connie Smith began on August 14, 1941 in Elkhart, Indiana. One of fourteen children, Connie always loved singing, but it was a freak accident that occurred when she was in her teens that started Connie on the path to success.

She was mowing the lawn one day when a rock flew from under the mower and severely cut her leg. The doctors told her she stood a chance of even losing the leg. It was during the long, tiresome weeks in the hospital that Connie taught herself to play the guitar, and decided that music was her first love.

The neighbors around Connie's home were quick to recognize her natural ability with a song, and it wasn't long after she was up and around that she was being asked to perform at various local functions. This led to radio, then to television and finally to the attention of Grand Ole Opry star, Bill Anderson. You might say that Bill was the Fairy Godfather in Connie's Cinderella Story.

There have been many events that have happened since that Connie admits come close to the thrill of that first appearance at the Opry: she is very proud to say that she has had the privilege of singing duets with such stars as Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Bill Anderson, George Morgan and Jimmy Dean. *Billboard Magazine* awarded Connie their annual award for the



most promising Female Country Artist in both 1964 and 1965. This is quite an accomplishment for having been in the business only a matter of months. All of this excitement, together with having the number one country song in the nation for over two and a half months with "Once A Day," and then another hit, "Then And Only Then," has been hard for Connie to believe. Her next release, "I Can't Remember" rode in the top ten spot for weeks. Her album, which is titled simply, "Connie Smith," held down the magical spot of the number one country music album in the nation for a long long time!

Connie, her husband, Jerry, and three-year-old Daren Justin, are now living in Hendersonville, Tenn. near Nashville. Connie and Jerry take Daren on many of their road tours through the United States and Canada. He is getting his start in the country music field early.

Since Cinderella first stepped into her coach those few months ago, she has made appearances on the Jimmy Dean Show, the Bobby Lord Show and, of

course, the Grand Ole Opry, *and* she has been re-booked for future appearances on all of them. She has appeared in the movie, "Second Fiddle To A Steel Guitar." She has also appeared on all of the major country music stage shows across the nation, and has a full schedule of appearances for months to come.

Connie has become so firmly entrenched in the country music field and in the hearts of her many, many new fans, we are sure that Cinderella doesn't have to worry about her coach turning into a pumpkin.



# BAKERSFIELD

# TO FO TO



*THE crowd gathered early. By 6:00 p.m., country music fans were lined up at each Auditorium entrance, and all the way down the block.*



*MANY of the performers assembled for rehearsal in mid-afternoon. At left is KUZZ Radio's program director, Larry Daniels, who heads up the Buckshots, one of Southern California's best liked country music aggregations. Right is Larry Scott, a DJ at KWAC.*



*IT was wall-to-wall people, and lovely Miss Bonnie Owens found her way through the crowd to chat with friends.*



*TOMMY Collins walked in the door with an armload of records and pictures for some DJ friends. Fans "pounced" on him and—wouldn't you know it—soon relieved him of his "burden."*

# TOYS FOR TOTS

# SHOW

The night of Friday, December 17, was one of the biggest ever for Buck Owens. It was the night of his huge Christmas Benefit Show for the Toys for Tots Campaign.

The entire country music population of Bakersfield and surrounding area gave Buck its most enthusiastic support. The entertainers—Tommy Collins, Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens, Joe & Rose, Lee Maphis, Billy Mize, Bobby Durham, Jeanie O'Neal, Ronnie Sessions, Kaye Adams, Larry Daniels and his Buckshots, Del & Sue Smart, Bill Woods, and Dave Stogner—gave freely of their time to perform on the show; the disc jockeys—Eddie Briggs (KUZZ), Tumbleweed Turner (KPMC), Larry Scott (KWAC) and Don Hillman (KWAC)—shared in the emcee duties and broadcast portions of the proceedings. Thousands of fans brought new toys (the price of admission) so that they could see the show. The auditorium was filled to capacity—some 8700 people—and several thousand still had to be turned away. It broke all previous attendance records for any type of event ever held in Bakersfield.

Bakersfield Mayor Russell V. Carlin was on hand to present to Buck the Key to the City. Marine Corps Major Steve Kenyon read a citation honoring Buck for his contribution to their Toys for Tots Campaign.

Eddie Briggs presented the 1965 KUZZ Country Music Award to "Bakersfield's Favorite Son," Buck Owens.

Every artist and DJ on the show gave his or her very best performance, and each one was extremely well received.

One of the warmest receptions ever given to a performer was received by a newcomer to the business. Buddy Owens, Buck's 17-year-old son, made his first appearance before an audience. He had to return for two encores before the show could resume—which made Buck one of the proudest fathers in America.

The Buck Owens Christmas Benefit Show had its beginning last July, the day Buck, while driving through Bakersfield, noticed a group of small children playing in the street. They were poorly dressed, and on closer scrutiny he noticed that most of them needed dental work.

"I remembered my own childhood," he said. "We always had enough to eat, but no luxuries, and I wondered what I could do now to help these children.



*JEANIE O'Neal paused to sign autographs and chat with admirers.*



*MEANWHILE, Merle Haggard busily signs autographs for some of his female admirers.*



*BUCK arrived, and that was the signal for the show to begin. Someone called him on stage, where Eddie Briggs (left) was waiting with the 1965 KUZZ Country Music Award, and Bakersfield Mayor Russell V. Carlin with the Key to the City. Marine Corps Major Steve Kenyon (in background) read a citation lauding Buck's contribution to the Toys for Tots cause.*

"The happiest time for any child is Christmas, and so I had the idea of a show to raise money so some of them could have a little better Christmas.

"Later on we were contacted by Major Kenyon of the Marine Corps. We decided to work along with their Toys for Tots campaign. Instead of an admission charge, we would ask for any kind of a new toy. There would be no time to repair used ones."

News of the show quickly spread, thanks to many radio stations, country music publications and trade magazines. DJs and fans chartered buses to travel to Bakersfield, and many made plans to drive several hundred miles for the event.

At the same time, Buck's ranch--OMAC's offices--Mother Owens' office--KUZZ and KWAC radio stations--and the Bakersfield Civic Auditorium, all were flooded with packages from all over the country, sent by fans who were unable to attend in person. The Big Western Club of Oregon sent a generous donation, which Buck used to buy still more toys. It required ten 5-ton trucks to haul the more than 10,000 toys from the auditorium to the Marine Corps Distribution Center, and hundreds of Marine reservists to deliver them to the children.

Needless to say, the Buck Owens Christmas Benefit Show for the Toys for Tots was a fabulous success. Said Buck, "We plan to make this a yearly event, and have already booked the auditorium for next year's performance."



*NO matter where you looked, you were bound to spot an Owens. Here are three of them--(left to right) Buck's lovely wife, Phyllis; son, Buddy; and Miss Bonnie, who is no relation to Buck and Phyllis, but is a close family friend. In real life Bonnie is the wife of Merle Haggard.*



*BILLY Mize, here with Buck and Buckaroo Tom Brumley, is a real favorite with California fans. Billy is host of Gene Autry's "Melody Ranch" TV show at KTLA, and has a bit, "Terrible Tangled Web," on Columbia.*



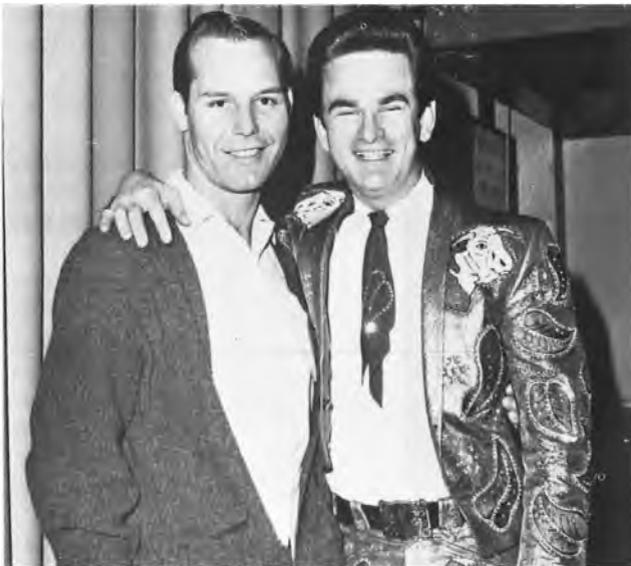
*BUDDY'S big moment, and if you think Buck looks amazed, you're right! He hadn't actually realized how talented his son was, until just then. (Aw, Buck, talent just naturally runs in your family!) Proud and happy Buckaroos Doyle Holly and Don Rich look on.*



*THERE* was nothing but love in Bakersfield's Auditorium that night. It was best demonstrated both on and off stage when Buddy finished his first song. He had to return for two encores.



*RONNIE* Sessions again—this time with two of his favorite DJs—"Smilin'" Eddie Briggs (KUZZ) and Tumbleweed Turner (KPMC). Psst! Ed! Smile, you really are on candid camera.



*BOBBY* Durham (right) poses with Buckaroo Doyle Holly.



*GUESS* we'll never really know what his dad's manager, Jack McFadden, is telling Buddy Owens. Maybe he's arranging for his son to become Buddy's manager.



*MEANWHILE*, the distaff half of the Bobby Durham Jeanie O'Neal duo is seen visiting with Buck Owens and his friend, Harold Woods, who drove all the way from Evansville, Ind. to see Buck and attend the big show.



"HEY Buck, I need your help!" says Ronnie. "The gals are gangin' up on me." At left is charmin' Rose Lee Maphis, and the gal on the right is Bettie Azevedo, the Sweetheart of KUZZ Radio.

# WWVA

# JAMBOREE



*Lee Sutton is the Ramrod-Emcee of this fast moving show.*



*WWVA "Regular" Jimmy Stephens of The New England Country Gentlemen.*

By BEA AND RED WILCOX

Nestled in the mountains of West Virginia at the edge of the Ohio Valley is Wheeling. Nestled in mid-town Wheeling is the Rex Theater—a movie theater most of the time, but on Saturday nights after the matinee ends—the atmosphere changes. From the darkness comes the lights and from North, South, East and West come the people that will comprise the audience and performers of the WWVA Jamboree because "Tonight is Saturday Night."

Since the movie ends at 6:30 and the broadcasting of the Jamboree begins at 7:30, time is short. Monty Blake, "cool" as the proverbial cucumber, calmly walks around backstage with his clip-board and pen, consulting his schedule, lining up the entertainers, and calming the entertainer who may be here for his first appearance. For these first-timers, nervousness is easy to come by as the entertainer realizes his voice or the voice of his instrument will be carried live over the 50,000 watts of power of WWVA radio. A warm handshake from Lee Sutton, the ramrod of the show, does so much also to make the entertainer feel welcome.

The usual rule of "no visitors" backstage was relaxed by Lee Sutton as he warmly welcomed these reporters and photographer Mrs. Arlene Craumer of Baltimore, Maryland, backstage when he learned the purpose of our 330 mile trip. "Make yourself at home," said he, "ask any questions you care to and you'll find all these folks here very friendly and very anxious to cooperate." He was right.

Putting on a show of this magnitude completely without rehearsal and with many entertainers who are complete strangers to each other is very challenging. Under the capable hands of Windy Blevins there is a "house band" for the entertainers who come without a band of their own. Bill Dycus plays the lead guitar coming from Avon Lake, Ohio, each Saturday night. From McMechan, West Virginia, comes Jim Murphy to play steel guitar. The bass was very capably handled by Chum Dougherty and the drums by Chuck King. For this particular Saturday night, this was the "back up" band. Sometimes it changes slightly as one musician "fills in" for another—but always under the direction of Windy Blevins.

Before the show started, Monty Blake and Lee Sutton left the entertainers to finish their "warming up" and went to the front of the curtain to "warm up" the audience. They talked of the souvenirs the

audience could buy—from a bumper strip for the car or a pennant for the wall, either for 25¢, a cowbell for 50¢, a ladies' head scarf for \$1.00, to a child's sweat shirt for \$1.50—all with the "WWVA Jamboree" plainly emblazoned somewhere on it.

Suddenly on the stage in front of the barn scene back props, the entire cast for this Saturday night opened the show as they all sang together and the show was officially "on." Just as suddenly, the opening number was concluded and the majority of the cast returned backstage leaving George Adams and Skinny Clark, regulars of the WWVA Jamboree since 1958, to do their first portion. These boys commute from Pittsburgh, Pa. for this show.

It must be remembered that these reporters came almost 350 miles to do this story, and although we had listened to the Jamboree many times, we had no inkling of who very many of the fifty or so performers were. The task of interviews looked tremendous. Our home town of Alexandria, Va. was well represented through Red Allen, The Yates Brothers — Bill and Wayne—and Porter Church, a blue-grass group that are now regulars of the Jamboree and commute every other week. The boys took us right "in tow" and introduced us around. Also from Alexandria, Va., were the Compton Brothers, Tom, Bill, and Harry, and their bass man, Dave Murray. The Comptons were special guests and this was their first appearance on the Jamboree.

One of the most helpful when it came to identifying the artists was a group from Cleveland, Ohio, consisting of artist Jack Campbell of Jubilee Records ("Trade My Gal For A Tiger" b/w "I Guess I've Learned A Lot From You"), and his manager, Carl French of the Carwin Publishing Company. Carl also manages the Robertson Brothers—Joe and Harold—of Cleveland. The Robertson Brothers' current record is "Cleveland's The Loneliest Town In The World" b/w "I Know You Don't Love Me" and is a fine example of their close harmony. Jack Campbell has been a regular of the show for about ten weeks and was eager to assist us in our identification of the artists and the promotion of the Wheeling Jamboree.

No amateur talent is used on the show. There are always several of the regulars and outside "name talent." On this show these outside talents were the Compton Brothers who sang both sides of their Columbia Recording of "Jailer Bring Me Water" b/w "Still Away," and the fabulous Johnny Paycheck—famous for A-11 riding so healthfully in the charts. Johnny had come from New York with his manager Aubrey Mayhew and was to leave immediately after the show to go back to New York. We think that one of the most important features of this Jamboree is that the talent with a record or two to their credit and needing exposure is warmly welcomed and invited. WWVA takes pride in introducing some of tomorrow's brightest stars across its air waves. This means a great deal to this budding talent in the way of future bookings and their pride in the Jamboree is very evident. Some of this "first time" talent goes on to become the regulars of the show. This can well be the first step to international fame as evidenced by prior regulars of the WWVA Jamboree such as Grandpa Jones and Ramona, Hawkshaw Hawkins, and Wilma Lee and



*THESE "Regulars" commute 330 miles for the show: Bill and Wayne Yates, Red Allen, Porter Church and Sack Cook.*



*Roy Scott has been a "Regular" on the Jamboree for 17 years!*



*Joe and Harold Robertson ... The Robertson Brothers are from Cleveland, Ohio.*

Stoney Cooper—just to mention a few. Lee Sutton confidently speaks of the future of the Jamboree which will move from its present location in the theater to a much larger auditorium soon. Lee has only been in charge for a very short time and has already brought changes. The Jamboree used to be a lot more bluegrass in flavor but the newer trend is more toward the regular country sound in music. This is in keeping with the new trend of WWVA Radio itself which just recently went to an all country format.

Not all of the regulars of the show commute. Jimmy Stephens, vocalist and leader of the New England Country Gentlemen, moved from his home in Connecticut to become a regular three and a half years ago. With him was his steel player, Smiley Roberts. Jimmy explained a little to us about the life of a "regular." When an artist signs on as a regular, he is required to make a given number of appearances per year. This benefits both the artist and the Jamboree by insuring a continuous lineup for the show each week and also by giving the artist the opportunity to accept many of the bookings that the fame of the show itself brings. Jimmy and "The Gentlemen" recently returned from an Air Force tour in the Thule, Newfoundland, etc., circuit and are going overseas again after the first of the year.

From other radio stations too comes disc jockey talent. From WEEP in Pittsburgh came Kenny Biggs to sing. Kenny had on a real pretty blue and gold outfit and white boots. He played a Fender Jaguar and sang "Oh Lonesome Me." Immediately after the second show for him, he left for another show he had to do yet that night. Roy Scott, who is a disc jockey at WPIT, Pittsburgh, when the daylight hours are longer in the spring, summer, and fall, has been a regular for 17 years and also commutes from Pittsburgh. He has a band called the Country Harmony Boys and featuring Joe Tippie on the steel, Bill Martin on the rhythm and Chuck Thome on the bass. Roy records on the Emperor Label—his current release being "Crazy, Crazy Arms" b/w "Toray Torday."

Commuting from Fairmont, West Virginia are the Vandergrift Brothers—Don, Darrell, and Ronnie (and very hard to tell apart too). Close harmony groups seem to be favorites here in Wheeling and these boys are a group of the finest as attested to by their being regulars for five years now.

Sometimes the regulars find that their personal appearance schedules become so full that they leave the Jamboree for a while. Such is the case of Starday artist Hylo Brown. Hylo became a regular again about a year and a half ago and commutes from Paintsville, Kentucky.

We met two female vocalists on the show. Mary Lou Turner and her dad and manager, Tommy Turner, came from Dayton Ohio, for their first appearance on the show. Mary Lou and her dad talked about a television show they would soon be co-hosting for one hour daily six nights a week on UHF television, that would welcome all talent passing through their town. The format of the show is to be a "big jam session." In a pretty white dress and red high heeled shoes, Miss Sandra Kaye was made welcome by everybody. She was wearing a pretty corsage—and if it was given to her for doing a "beautiful job on a song," it was justly de-

# W W V A J A M B O R E E



*HYLO Brown is one of the regulars on the WWVA Jamboree.*



*JOHNNY Paycheck was Special Guest on the Jamboree.*



*SPECIAL Jamboree guests Mary Lou and Tommy Turner.*

served.

There is humor on the show, too, provided by Crazy Elmer. We tried to find him to talk to him but once he got out of his "stage clothes," we no longer recognized him. Before we realized it, four and a half hours of complete showtime had been done and our interviews were not nearly complete. The show going on onstage had kept drawing our attention and before we knew it we were too late to interview Richard Green, a fiddler from California, or Jack Cook from Baltimore.

Other Jamboree regulars who were off on other assignments that night were Darnell Miller (Challenge), Kirk Hansard (Columbia), Lois Johnson (Epic), Lee Moore of WWVA's all night Jamboree party, Charlie Moore and Bill Napier and the Dixie Partners (King), Bill and Sam (Clark), Doc Williams and the Border Riders, Big Slim, The Lane Cowboy, Doug La Valley and Jean Marie.

From his microphone on stage left, Lee Sutton brought the show to a close. Many of the performers had long since departed for the four corners whence they came or maybe even to new corners for another show somewhere else, and our interviews for the night were over. Next week, some of them will be back again from different corners again, and each week it's an entirely different show. The WWVA Jamboree - now in its 34th consecutive year—a show long steeped in tradition but keeping pace with the ever-changing face of country music.



*THE popular Vandergrift Brothers from Fairmont, West Virginia - Don, Darrell and Ronnie.*



*GUESTS of the WWVA Jamboree, Bill, Harry and Tom Compton ... The Compton Brothers and Red Wilcox.*



*HARRY Compton of the Compton Brothers "hams it up" backstage.*



*JACK Campbell of Jubilee Records is a regular on the show.*

# Jesse James Benton

## The COWBOY COMPOSER

By TEXAS JIM COOPER

During the Civil War, when Texas men were away fighting, the uncontrolled herds of Longhorns increased their numbers tremendously on the open spaces of the Lone Star State. After the Civil War, those fabled trail drives were born; between 1866 and 1895, some ten million Texas Longhorns were driven to meat-hungry Northern markets.

A trail drive, depending upon the destination, lasted as long as six months, and to pass the time as well as to calm the shaky temperament of the cattle, the devoted cowboy sang. One of the best cowboy composers of that era was Jesse James Benton, Kentucky-born and Texas-raised.

When Jesse was eight, an uncle in the Lone Star State wrote the lad's parents that Texas "is a fine country" and they should come there to settle. They did, arriving in 1873 and settling in Denton County, not far from Dallas.

Before long, Jesse decided he wanted to be a cowboy and at 13, in 1877, he applied for a job as one. The trail boss was Tobe Odem, "a big feller with scattered beard, dressed in rawhide britches sewed with rawhide." Young Jesse told Odem, "I come out to Texas to be a cowboy and fight Injuns and learn to rope and ride. All I have done since I seen my first cowboy is to practice with a rope and with my cap and ball pistol." Odem, impressed, immediately hired the boy.

Odem did not ignore giving Jesse a semblance of education. As Jesse put it, "While at this camp we never seen a newspaper, or a letter, but Mr. Odem brought some school books for the younger boys and made us study two or three hours every day. That was the kind of man Mr. Odem were. I was glad of the chance to learn. Mr. Odem helped us boys when he

was there, and the older cowboys that could, helped us. They felt like a father to us. I got so I could read better and figure pretty well."

About 1878, Jesse, only 14, turned his trail drive education into poetic efforts. Jesse sets the scene: "At night we could lay in our beds (and) ... could hear the cowboys singing their lonesome songs. They sang mostly the songs they had learned from their mothers as young boys. Some of them were church hymns and some love songs, and they sang as much from being lonesome as the cattle needing to be soothed. Gradually, later on, these songs changed to ones that the cowboys made up themselves ..."

What Jesse Benton did was to learn these songs, help perfect their wording, and put them down on paper for posterity. Actually, the original songs the cowboys made up were often too bawdy to be printed, so Jesse just helped "purify" the versions as he wrote them down in musical form.

While working for Odem, Jesse met "Pink Burdett, a regular songbird," and while still in his teens, Jesse joined with Burdett to "compose the originals of such songs as "Home On The Range," "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie," "Dreary Black Hills," and "Hoopie-I-O-Little Dogies." These were "quite different from the modern versions," Jesse declared.

Jesse has left behind the story of "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie." In Starr County, Texas in 1878, "a real cowboy" that had been killed on the Texas side of the Red River was buried "in a little draw." Soon after, Benton and Burdett set their feelings about the dead cowboy to music:

"Bury me not on the lone prairie,  
Where the wild coyotes howl and the wind sports free,  
Bury me not on the lone prairie.  
I oftimes wish to be laid when I died  
In the old churchyard on the green hillside.  
By the bones of my mother, oh, bury me,  
But bury me not on the lone prairie."

As he grew old, Jesse Benton became unable to remember all of the verses of the original cowboy ballads. But as one would come to him in fragments, he would begin singing and "stamping his feet and thumping away" to the tune of the colorful music he helped perfect and bring into popular bloom.

Cowboy songs form an integral part of Western music, and in paying tribute to the history of Country Western Music, one of its true founders must not be forgotten—Jesse James Benton, the Cowboy Composer.

*LONGHORN cattle, like this specimen on the Josey Ranch in Carrollton, Texas, were a basic part of the era from which sprang some of America's most famous cowboy songs as co-composed by cowboy Jesse James Benton in the 1870's.*



# Seventeen Years Young

## RONNIE SESSIONS

By  
Bonnie Daily

When a young good looking lad dressed in a bright colored jacket, carrying one of the famous Mosrite guitars, walks out onto the stage of a Country music Show you will know immediately that you are in for a great treat. His name and face is becoming more popular as each day passes and if you haven't guessed by now—I want you to know this fine entertainer's name—RONNIE SESSIONS.

Ronnie was born in Henrietta, Oklahoma on December 7, just 16 short years ago. He has come a long way in his 16 years (further than it takes many to go in 3 times as long) and with all the talent this lad has there is no doubt that he will go much farther. Up to date he has appeared on several TV shows. The first show being "The Kuzzin' Herb Henson Trading Post" in Bakersfield, California. Ronnie was only 9 years old at the time. He sang "Gotta Travel On" which everyone liked. There were so many letters received by Kuzzin' Herb asking for "Little Ronnie" again that he appeared many, many times thereafter.

Many other TV shows were soon having Ronnie as their special guest. He has been a regular on several shows also, such as "The Jelly Sanders Show," "The Tommy Dee Show," and "The Billy Mize Show." At the present time he appears three times a week on the Kountry Korner Show on Channel 17 with Dave Stogner. Ronnie is also a regular member of the KUZZ Karavan which recently traveled to Tehachapi, and entertained the men at the California Institute for Men.

His first record release was on the Pike Label and titled "Mama's Japanese." This one record established Ronnie as a favorite in California and with all the DJ's for miles and miles around. He now has a new release on the Mosrite Label titled "Scaredy Cat" b/w "There Never Was A Fool." Both of these fine songs are great and a person will almost have to flip a coin or take a wild guess to see which side will be the "winner" for Ronnie.

One of the biggest thrills in his music career was when he appeared on a show along with a Grand Ole Opry group. Dottie West and Billy Grammer were the main attractions for this show but when "Little Ronnie" walked on the stage he brought the house down. When he came on with "Act Naturally" every hand in the auditorium was clapping and when his part of the show finished every hand was clapping again and begging for more. This was quite a show and Ronnie proved to everyone that he could sing with the "Best of the best and all the rest."

Even with Ronnie being such a popular Country Music entertainer, he still leads a very normal life



and is growing up as millions of other teenage boys are. He attends high school at South High in his home town, Bakersfield, California, and is a star football player. Ronnie also set a record last year on a relay run. He and three of his school mates broke the United States High School record for 440 yd. relay. Like many other boys, Ronnie loves to fish. Ronnie went golfing for the first time recently and he loved the game and you can bet that he will be out on the greens more and more as time permits.

Ronnie's favorite food is steak and his favorite color is bright turquoise (have you seen the beautiful jacket that he sometimes wears?) His favorite female artist is Connie Stevens and his favorite Country male artist is Buck Owens. Haven't you noticed how well he sings some of Buck's great hits? One of Ronnie's greatest desires is to become as well loved by his fans as Buck Owens.

Ronnie is quick to say that a great deal of credit for his success goes to his manager and close friend, Andy Mosley. Andy gave Ronnie his first guitar lesson just seven years ago. Andy will come back with, "Ronnie is just full of talent and always has been. With a growing boy it just takes time for all of the talent to 'leak' out and it takes time to let all of you wonderful Country Music fans know about it." Ronnie has a great future ahead of him but first things come first such as an education and just growing up.

This is just a prediction, but sure as "shootin'" it will soon become a reality that one of these days in the not too far off future we will be seeing Ronnie on many of the BIG time shows. It is his dream to be to be a big time star and to be on the Jimmy Dean Show. This is just another step ahead for Ronnie. He is climbing the ladder of success very rapidly and is bound to reach the top.

# EDDIE DEAN

## The Golden-Voiced Cowboy



By TEXAS JIM COOPER

The golden-voiced cowboy, Eddie Dean, co-author with Hal Sothorn of the Country-Western Music classic "I Dreamed Of A Hillbilly Heaven," was born near Sulphur Springs in North Texas.

The youngest of seven sons and two daughters of an Alabama-born father and a mother from Tennessee, smiling, kind-hearted Eddie Dean has been recording professionally since 1933. Afterwards he became one of Decca's first artists. After a non-hit career with major recording studios, Eddie joined Sage and Sand Records. Eddie's first Sage and Sand Records release "Hillbilly Heaven," was a hit for this stirring vocalist. In 1961, the famous Tex Ritter recorded this beautiful song and it sold a million-plus copies for Tex.

After "Hillbilly Heaven," Eddie wrote another memory-maker, "One Has My Name The Other Has My Heart," recorded by Jimmy Wakely in 1948 on Capitol Records' label. Then Eddie produced other creative compositions—"Fool's Gold," "On The Banks Of The Sunny San Juan," "Cry Of A Broken Heart," among others. His Sage and Sand recordings of "Stealing," "Impatient Blues," "Blessed Are They," "Walk Beside Me," "An Orphan's Prayer," "Just A While," "Sign On The Door," "Open Up Your Door Baby (sung with Joanie Hall)," "The First Christmas Bell," "Somebody Great," "Look Homeward Angel," "Down-

grade," "Rock 'N Roll Cowboy," and "Banks Of The Old Rio Grande" proved to be popular also.

Eddie's "wonderful singing voice" was destined for Country-Western Music. Although urged as a young adult to sing classical music, he chose C-W Music and was hired as a singer for Chicago radio stations in 1928. In just a few years, he had sung on most stations in the Midwest and on CBS, NBC, and ABC. In 1937 Eddie Dean moved to California, which is still his home.

Starting in western movies, Eddie made nine films with cowboy star Bill Boyd, who portrayed "Hopalong Cassidy." In some sixty subsequent films, Eddie played "heavy" roles, often performing stunts and doing the necessary fight scenes with that dynamic energy and skill so prevalent in those natives of Texas. Then, until about 1950, Eddie Dean became a Western star himself for PRC pictures corporation.

As of late, Eddie has been entertaining and touring throughout the land and overseas. His 1965 oriental tour was so successful that he was booked to sing there again.

Wherever good music—C-W music, that is—is heard, many times the person pulling the strings on the instrument and rendering the vibrant vocalizations will be a talented Texan—like Eddie Dean!



EDDIE Dean, Shirley Patterson and Rosco Ates as they appeared in "Driftin' River."

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# The Enterprising

## Bill Claiborne

By RUTH CHARON

Most DJs are more fortunate than "Mr. Average Worker" as they are working at a job they love. Untold numbers of breadwinners in the land are earning a living at any place they can find, or the one for which they were trained. The DJ announcer considers himself lucky since he is actually being paid to be around the music he loves, as well as sending it out to soothe the souls of thousands of devout listeners. In addition, some of these music men tackle, with spirit, the challenge of the business end of the music field - this is Bill Claiborne. The following is an abbreviated version of his life story, for the many fans who have requested it.

The boyhood and history of a modern Horatio Alger usually unfolds an interesting and inspirational biography with "lore galore."

Bill Claiborne's story made its entry in the "book of life" August 1, 1932 in the hills of East Tennessee where he was the baby son in a family of nine children. As a switch from the usual, this young man did not mature under a musical family roof; his mother even sold the living room piano because Bill wouldn't practice. By a strange trend of fate, this sale was to Roy Acuff and his "Crazy Tennesseans," then on local radio. He said "After growing up and hearing the master hands of Bill Purcell or Floyd Cramer, I am filled with remorse in that I can't travel back in time to practice on our old piano."

Music did play a major part in Bill's early years as he treasured the hours listening to WSM and all the country music he could discover in every locale. From this awareness as a wee tot, until he was old enough to realize folks could make a living in this field, his



goal was to be a member of the staff of WSM.

Bill's career in the world of song began when still a teenager and he hitched a ride to his first radio DJ job in Rogersville, Tenn. He gradually worked up to become general manager at WOKE, Oak Ridge, and then on to a sister station, WZYX in Winchester-Cowan. From Bill's own efforts and the welcome advisory help of broadcasting magnate, Connie B. Gay (his close friend), he acquired the knowledge necessary to owning his own station. This had been one of the goals in his life's plan.

This successful station he later sold at a profit, after having brought it up from financial failure, and then moved on to Chattanooga to try the new media—Television—on Channel 3.

He served his tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force, married his wife Mildred and they now have three children and a happy home in Nashville.

From the TV station to Music City U.S.A., WSM called Bill and he began to realize this other goal on September 1964. He was host of the all nite show known as Opry Star Spotlight and gained thousands of fans who love him.

He received national prominence as a radio personality. His love of people, warmth of voice and perfect diction were contributing factors to this success. Now, with the blessings of Mr. Cooper, Ott Devine and the entire staff of WSM, he leaves as a prince of these turntables.

Bill has formed his own company, known as Claiborne & Associates, producing his own country show to be placed on 50 stations throughout the nation. At the present time he is forming Melody-Mill Music Publishers, as well as heading up the Bill Claiborne Country Caravan, with a cast of 12 C&W artists. He will be Master of Ceremonies on some of the TV shows emanating from Music City. We all wish him well on these new ventures.



"Gee Mom, I like my new cowboy suit, when do I get a guitar?"



"... And now, ladies and gentlemen, one of the biggest names in Country Music—  
Salvadore Castlehoffenbergen ..."

## The One Night Panic Days

The following article was written by Earl Simpkins, a classmate of Bill Anderson at Georgia University. At the time this story was written, Earl was a staff writer for the Lynchburg, Va. newspaper. The story was written in 1959.

Even with all of those one-night stands on personal appearances, Bill Anderson has managed to gain a few pounds since his college days . . . but he says he didn't gain any on his first tour. "In fact, the boy who was with me and I didn't eat very much on that one," Bill said. "The tour wasn't exactly a financial success."

"I had never been west of Carrollton, Georgia, so when Professor Worth McDougald, who is head of the radio and television department of the Henry Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia told me that I had enough credits to graduate in March, 1959, I went to Nashville, got with this other boy, and we started a Western tour.

"Things got bad till we got to Tuscon, Arizona, then they got worse. When we got there I had a letter from McDougald telling me that he had counted my credits wrong, and I didn't have enough to graduate. There was another letter from the draft board telling me to report for a physical.

"We started back to Nashville in the other boy's 1954 Cadillac and with \$14.00 between us. We had two tires go bad in Tulsa, and we had to hock his record player and everything else we had to get money to buy two recaps. We got back to Nashville with no

money at all, and with the gas tank almost empty.

"Then I got enrolled in a five weeks summer school at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, and I got the credits I needed to graduate at Georgia. I took the physical and have never heard from them again. After graduation I went back to Nashville and things just started to happen right for me. The other boy on the tour—Roger Miller—also has managed to pay his bills since then."

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(Signature of) FRANK B. HARRIS  
Publisher

# Be Sure To See...



## Roger White

Roger White was born on December 5, 1935 in New Martinsville, W. Va. to Freda Diane and Charles E. White. Roger has four brothers, Dorman, Moyne, Reed and Randolph, and one sister, Kay.

At the age of eight Roger's father bought him his first guitar (which he promptly traded off to another little boy for a pair of roller skates) and then his oldest brother, Dorman, bought him his second guitar which he used until entering the Army at the age of 17. For the next three years Roger played music for the officers' clubs in Korea, Japan, and the U.S.

In 1961 Roger recorded two songs he had written himself, "Mr. Bluebird" and "Childhood Sweetheart." "Mr. Bluebird" being the No. 1 Side earned Roger his professional name—Mr. Bluebird. He also recorded "Let's Forget The Past" and "Somebody's Stealin' My Baby" and in 1965 he recorded "Our Divorce" and "Wake Me."

While in Korea Roger saved another soldier's life crossing a mine field and he bought Roger a guitar which he still uses.

In early 1966 Roger will release his latest record, written by the famous song writer, Ron Kitson of WHOF Radio in Canton, Ohio.

Mr. Bluebird's favorite color is blue and his favorite sport is swimming, and his favorite food is homemade vegetable soup.

Roger and wife June were married October 5, 1956. They reside in Canton, Ohio with their three children, Monica, Roger II, and Charlene.



## Faye

## Darling

Faye Darling began her professional singing career in 1958 when she made her first record for Sparta Records, "Louisiana," backed with "I Know Now." The record is no longer available, but was quite popular when it came out. Faye is well known throughout the Southland, and has appeared on the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport and the Ernest Tubb Midnight Jamboree in Nashville. She has blonde hair and blue eyes. Her birthday is September 29, and she has been in Country Music for a good while now. In 1963 her second record was released on the Cool Record label, called, "I Remember," backed with "Funny Bunny." It has been a popular recording and is still getting lots of play in many parts of the country.

# Be Sure To See...

## Johnny Dollar



Yes, "Johnny Dollar" is an unusual name, but that it is. Standing a slim 5'11" at a neat 175 pounds is this dark eyes, black haired Indian boy.

Johnny's parents are from the Creek Indian tribe and they moved from Bristow, Okla. to Kilgore, Texas where Johnny was born. Johnny has lived many years in Oklahoma, so instead of calling Texas his home, he always says in his easygoing way, "I'm an Okie."

Johnny is a young "30" years old—and single! Says he's going to stay that way a while, as the time to settle down will come soon enough—so this good looking boy will make some lucky girl a fine catch.

Twelve years ago Johnny decided that music would be his life, so turning professional found him recording for "Pappy" Dailey on the "D" Label. His first record, "Walking Away" Johnny wrote in the true country tradition of the singers today. Several songs came out on "D" Records — "Lonesome Trains," "Crawling Back To You," "West Texas," and so on, but "Slim" Willet of Abilene, Texas, saw something in Johnny Dollar, so the deal was made for Johnny to record for the Winston Label. This was a turning point in his career; his first record, "Lumber Jack," was an overnight smash hit, and then Columbia Records entered his life. Mr. Don Law and his secretary, Miss Irene Stanton, heard Johnny's "Lumber Jack" and the ball started rolling. Mr. Law signed Johnny to a long term recording contract with Columbia. The first release hit the country by storm and "Tear Talk" b/w "Big Red (the hound)" proved Don Law had discovered another fine country artist.

This boy—Johnny Dollar—puts on a fine show, so when he is in your town, go see him; he will have a warm smile and a ready hand shake for you.



## Cousin Wilbur

Cousin Wilbur was a featured star on the Grand Ole Opry for several years. He has also been featured on NBC, CBS network, Louisiana Hayride, recordings and has appeared on the same shows with all the top stars of the Grand Ole Opry.

He has one of the best dance bands from Nashville with a built in floor show. The floor show consists of dancing girls, female and male singers, recording stars, and the World's top comedian Cousin Wilbur.

He has a very versatile band that plays all types of music including waltz, country and western swing, rock 'n roll and twist.

Just returning from a three day tour at the Enlisted, NCO, and officers Club, U.S.M.C. Paris Island, S.C. personal appearance at Cactus Pete's Club, Jack Pot, Nev.; Roosevelt Lounge, Detroit, Mich.; Community Park, Riehhold, Pa. . .he drew the largest crowd in the history of the park.

The following are only a few of the places he has played with overflowing crowds and also with return engagements. NCO Club, Sand Hill, Ft. Benning, Ga.; NCO Club, Bangor, Maine; The White Hat Club, Submarine Base, New London, Conn.; four times last year; NCO Club, Bolling Air Force, Washington, D.C.; NCO Club, Ft. Jackson, S.C.; five times last year; NCO Club, Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, S.C.; NCO Club, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; NCO Club, McCoy AFB, Florida; NCO Club, Barksdale AFB, La.; NCO Club, Little Rock AFB, Little Rock, Ark.; NCO Club, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; NCO Club, Ft. Leonardwood, Mo.; and many other government bases.

**TIPS FROM THE TOP** *continued from page 6*

Granted, you'll be accused of many slights, many "misdemeanors," whether you are actually guilty or not, but isn't it a whole lot better to know you are innocent? At least you can defend yourself!

And how about that promise you made, and forgot to keep? Whether it was a fan who wanted a picture, a deejay who needed a record, or any other major or seemingly minor thing—if you think there's a chance you will forget it, make a note of it. And if you're likely to lose the note before you get home, stick it in an envelope and mail it to yourself. Sooner or later, a "minor" broken promise is going to become a major one, and it doesn't do your reputation a bit of good.

How much better to have people saying "So-and-So's word is as good as gold!"

All this may sound like a complicated and demanding formula for success—but take my word for it—it works!

**MIDWEST NOTES** *continued from page 7*

cally every artist in Country Music has been on it, either via phone, tape, or in person! Any established C&W artists who haven't yet given him a ring, the number is 283-2538 (area code 515). He'll put you on the air over 50,000 powerful watts. (And I will be listening too!)

That's about all for this time. Don't slow down in your support of Country Music in 1966—it should be bigger'n better than ever this year. Also, don't forget to send a card to Delmar Williams. Thank you.

**NASHVILLE NOTES** *continued from page 6*

Jimmy Gately, Hugh X. Lewis and Mel Tillis. Kay Culbert, Billy Martin's fan club president, was there in Saginaw, giving them moral support. Their thanks to the fans who presented the group with Christmas gifts. Angel of Riverwood Lodge, *Music City News* Epic Records, Decca and MGM, along with the Music City Women's Assoc. hosted us at some very fine Christmas parties where there was just no end to the fun and music. See you next month.

**SOUTHEAST NOTES** *continued from page 7*

W. Va. when the WWVA Jamboree moves from it's old quarters at the Rex Theater to the bigger Wheeling Downs Exposition Hall on Wheeling Island. WWVA has named this Buck Owens month and the proceeds of the show will be donated to the Heart Fund. WWVA Jamboree "regulars" Red Allen, Bill & Wayne Yates, and Porter Church will be on hand. Travelling from Oxon Hill, Md. will be Wayne Newland's Oxon Hill Cloggers for their second appearance on the Jamboree. The Cloggers were winners of the "Novelty" category this year at the Warrenton, Va. championships in August. Also from Alexandria, Va. on this same Jamboree show will be the fabulous Compton Brothers. We sincerely hope that the Compton Brothers' bus will be able to make this trip. The Comptons left for Missouri shortly before Christmas to spend the holiday with their mother. They were to be back by December 27 but a blown-up motor detained them. They finally got it fixed by New Year's Eve and all packed to leave, the clutch fell out! It was several days into 1966 before they got back.

# 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   |
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Atlanta, Ga.	25	Toronto, Ont., Canada	21-26
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Greenville, S.C.	11	Minneapolis, Minn.	21-27
Columbia, S.C.	12	<b>JUSTIN TUBB</b>	
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\*For your personal selection see the complete line of Fender Fine Electric Instruments (like the sensational "Mustang" guitar shown above) on display at leading music dealers throughout the world.

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