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**Next
Month
In**



Jimmie Rodgers **Billy Walker** **Billy Mize** **Duke Of Paducah**

"TIPS FROM THE TOP" BY DOTTIE WEST

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.

NOTES

By JIM HARRIS

Buck Owens, No. 1 country artist two years in a row, was named president of Thunderbird Broadcasting Corporation at a recent meeting of the board of directors. The corporation owns and operates radio station KUZZ in Bakersfield . . . 50,000 watt KGBS in Los Angeles is going strong since they switched to an all country format . . . I noticed on the charts that there are six country songs by country artists on the top pop 100.

February 25 KFOX in Long Beach was host to a gallery of stars at the Shrine Auditorium in LA. It was the night of the first west coast appearance of Eddy Arnold in 12 years. Included in the show were Jim Edward Brown, George Hamilton IV, Dottie West, and Don Bowman. A special guest appearance was made by Lorne Greene, better known as "Pa Cartwright" of the Ponderosa. Lorne was there to visit long time friend Eddy and also to present him with a plaque from RCA Victor and KFOX. The award was a mock-up of a gigantic record with a likeness of Eddy on it, and was entirely made and tooled from leather by Nudie the Tailor of Hollywood. By coincidence, the March issue of Country Music LIFE had a feature story on Eddy and his picture on the cover. When he had seen it, ran around backstage showing it to everyone. While there, I was able to talk to George Hamilton IV and Jim Edward Brown . . . both nice guys and wonderful performers. KFOX is certainly doing its part to make Southern California a center for country music.

The biggest topic of conversation in these parts in some time was the first annual banquet and award presentation by the Southern California Country & Western Music Academy held at the Hollywood Palladium. The awards were presented by stars of country music and Hollywood celebrities. There were Keely Smith, Chill Wills, Nelson Riddle, Joanie Sommers, Dick Clark, Audie Murphy, Connie Stevens, the cast of the Beverly Hillbillies, Irene Ryan, Buddy Ebsen and Donna Douglas, and lest we forget the most famous pea-picker of all time, Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Chairman of the event was Dick Schofield, general manager of KFOX. Host-narrator was Lorne Greene.

Jack McFadden and his troupe from Bakersfield went home with most of the marbles. OMAC Artist Corp. was the recipient of the following awards: *Manager*, Jack McFadden; *No. 1 Country Artist*, Buck Owens; *No. 1 Band*, The Buckaroos; *Top Female Vocalist*, Bonnie Owens; *Most Promising Male Vocalist*, Merle Haggard; *Most Popular Vocal Group*, Bonnie Owens and Merle Haggard (husband and wife, by the way). Billy Mize won the *Top TV Personality* award. Billy is host of Gene Autry's Melody Ranch on Channel 5 here in Los Angeles. Kay Adams was in tears as she accepted the *Most Promising Female Vocalist* award, *Best guitar*, Bob Morris. So much for OMAC.

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NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

This is my first report for Country Music LIFE, and I would like to say "Howdy" to all Country Music fans on both sides of the border.

Recent tours in Western Canada have been the Johnny Cash show which includes Johnny, June Carter The Statler Brothers, and Tex Ritter. This show set a record in attendance, drawing more people than ever before to gather for a Country Music show in Regina, Sask. No one was disappointed.

In Winnipeg, Peter Grant, of Country Music Station CJOB FM had a gabfest with Tex Ritter that gave him enough material to do a 20-minute show on the history of Tex's "Hillbilly Heaven."

In February we had the Dave Dudley Show, including Dave, Sheb Wooley and Ben Colder, the Evans Sisters and Carl, Hal and Ginger Willis, and Red Sovine. When this show reached Red Deer, Alberta, they had been scheduled to do two shows at 7:00 and 9:30. Both shows were sold out and there were enough people outside to merit a third show, which they did at 11:30 and ending at 2:05 a.m. and no one left until it was over. That's what I call real Country Music fans, and real wonderful people.

This was the first major tour of Western Canada for Ann and Shirley, the Evans Sisters and Carl. Carl is a very talented guitarist and sings some of the songs with Ann and Shirley on their new album "Your Requests" on Vee label. All three are from Winnipeg, Manitoba, where they worked for four years before moving to Minot, N. D. two years ago. In addition to singing, they write most of their own songs.

"The Lumberjack," Canada's own French Canadian, Hal Willis, originally from Quebec and now living in Nashville, has a new record to be released soon. He tells me it's a story about a truck driver. This will be Hal's first release for the Kapp label where he has just been signed. Hal and his pretty wife, Ginger, from Toronto, have been singing for seventeen years now and it's nice to see them doing so well. This couple also write most of their own songs. They penned "Lumberjack" and "Klondike Mike" which have been two of their biggest hits so far. The next tour of Western Canada will be the first week in April and will include Ferlin Husky, Leroy Van Dyke, Minnie Pearl and Melba Montgomery.

Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper did a week's stand at the Edison Hotel in Toronto from January 17-22, where they did from 5 to 7 shows a night—and that's a lot of singing. Speaking of Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper gives me the opportunity to say that I represent their fan club in Western Canada, and their latest record "It Started Again" (their first for Decca) is doing well.

Cy Anders has been working at Peterboro, Ont. and Timmins, Ont., and a two week stand at Brampton, Ont. It was a hassle traveling between Peterboro and Timmins, with heavy snow.

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editorial

All of us here in the editorial offices think the time has come to interrupt our schedule to "go on record" and thank everyone for the part they have played in the fantastic growth of Country Music LIFE magazine.

The use of superlatives — tremendous, amazing, super-colossal — is actually a necessity in describing the success of our magazine. If it sounds as though we are "blowing our own horn," it is true . . . we are . . . and proud to be able to do so. But we are not kidding ourselves. We know where the credit belongs . . . it goes to you, our readers and subscribers.

In just six short months, Country Music LIFE has risen from obscurity to the undisputed leader in the field of reporting country music to the fans, the artists, and the businesses that make the country music industry.

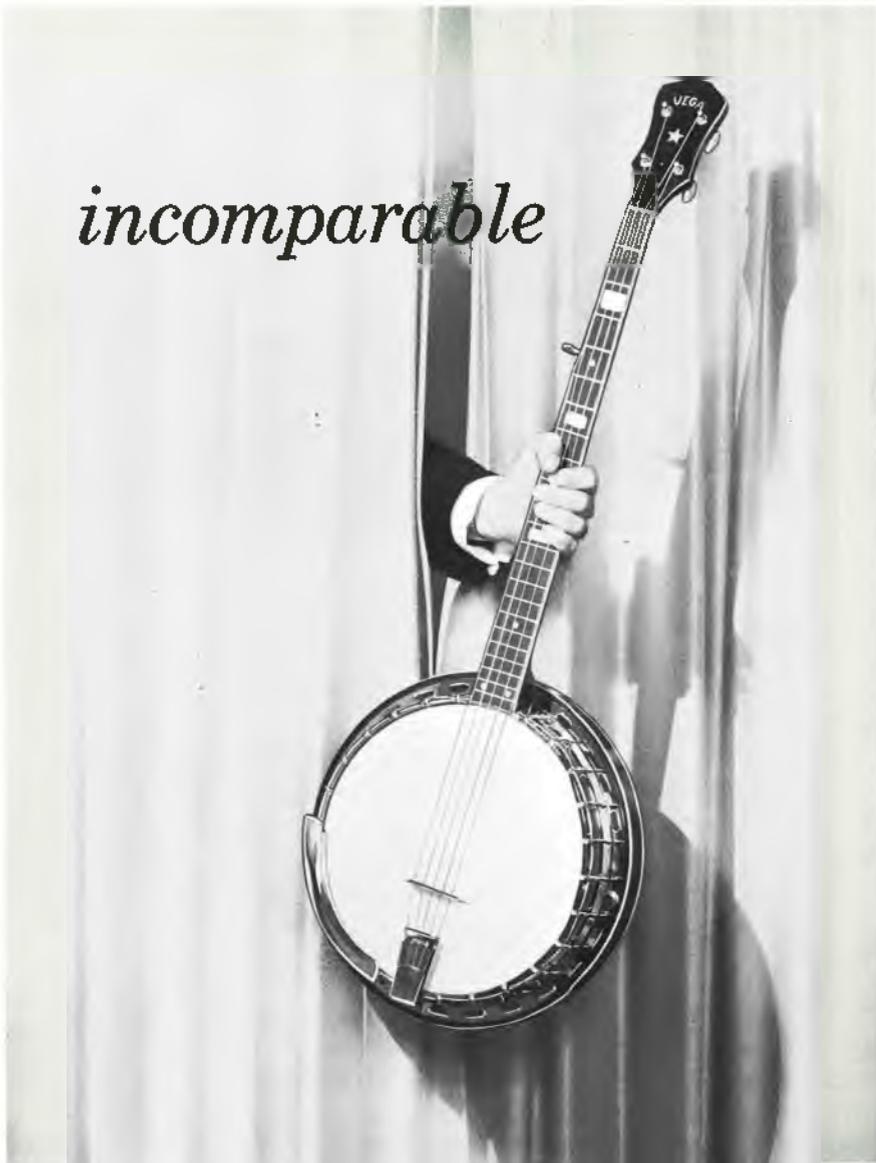
The loyal support of everyone — the fans, the fan clubs, our reporters and representatives—has contributed so very much toward our success. This success is reflected in several ways. Any way you care to measure it, Country Music Life "has arrived"; the astounding growth in circulation, financial solvency, but above all else, the overwhelming acceptance by its readers.

Unsolicited letters of testimonial continue to pour in every day from artists, fans and business personalities. All of these letters state the same basic facts; they not only read and re-read every issue, but they are so enthusiastic, they tell their friends, loan out the magazine, and send us lists of friends requesting that we mail them information so that they, too, may subscribe.

Country Music LIFE is grateful, indeed very grateful, to everyone who has helped so enthusiastically to make Country Music LIFE the Number One Country Music Magazine . . . the Leader!

We have many new and pleasant surprises for you in future issues, and we are sure that the continued success of Country Music LIFE will be as amazing and overwhelming as it has in the first six months.

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TIPS FROM THE TOP

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

By

Bill Anderson



What's in a name? Take the name "show business" for example. That's something that interests all of you, or you wouldn't be reading this magazine. I just wonder how many of you have stopped and thought about what "show business" really is.

First, it's a two word title. And the title is pretty descriptive of the subject: it's about 50% business. If I can offer any "tips from the top" to those of you who might aspire to enter this profession, it would be this: remember it's "show" and conduct yourself accordingly, but never forget for one minute that this is also very much a "business."

For every record a recording artist releases, there is a list of disc jockies to write, wire, or phone; to ask their help; to get their reactions. For every great night I've been fortunate enough to spend on stage with the spotlights shining, the rhinestones glittering, and the people applauding, there's been a day in the office back home answering mail, working on new songs, preparing recording sessions, TV shows, and future road trips . . . in general just doing the 1,001 things that a person in this business has to do to survive.

Very definitely, this is a *business*. A business just as real and just as demanding as selling real estate, insurance, or automobiles. The only difference is the performer is his own product. And his business is to sell himself and his talents and his abilities. And sometimes it takes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I'm writing this to disillusion any of you who want a career in music because you think it's the easy way to get rich. And to disillusion those of you who might think it's one big 'round-the-clock party. True, to some who make their living in music, it is just a lark, a plaything, a toy. But the people who treat their responsibilities to themselves and their public so lightly are the ones, I believe, who will be left standing at the depot when the train pulls out.

But . . . there's a lot of room in the music business for fresh, new creative, hard-working people. Don't ever forget that, and if a place in this business is

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Nashville



NOTES



By

PAUL AND RUTH CHARON

After a long seige of ice and snow, spring is finally breaking through. In my drive through residential record-land, the first music colony neighbor I saw out gardening was Kay Arnold. Her toddler son Mike was there trying to help with his Donald Duck tool set. A BMI awardee-singer, Kay has recent songs cut by Bill Carlisle, Billy Walker, Don Cherry and Kendall Hayes. Kendall wrote the hit "Walk On By" and other top songs. As a vocalist, his new release on the Buster Doss Wizard label, has both sides written by him and Kay. She wrote all four sides on releases by two new artists to the scene, Lenora Elynn and Harold Smith of this same label. Tee and Bob have joined Buster's talent agency, working show dates with Bill Carlisle.

Believe it or not: the common opinion is that most members of our trade are businessmen or country boys. Strange as it seems there are some wild combinations, namely: famous wrestler Jackie Fargo co-wrote and does the recitation on Webb Pierce's "The Champ." Successful, busy manager of Hank Williams, Jr; Jimmy Martin, Tommy Cash, Merle Kilgore, Claude King, Sue York, Marvin Rainwater, Murv Shiner and the Stoneman Family, is Buddy Lee. He is the ex-holder of the World Tag Team Championship; as a twist of type, he used to book Liberace. Buddy's wife, Rita Cortez, is the current top U.S. women's wrestler; these girls look so wild on the mat, yet at home she is sweet, beautiful and feminine.

Hair stylist, barber shop owner, Tommy Smith, has some great records out; Nashville city fireman, John Hager, fiddles up a storm on the Carl Tipton WSIX TV show. Many nights I see him backstage pickin' a few with the Opry's fabulous Curley Fox. Dr. Paul Moore is the "singing Dentist" with a record out. Nashville City Detective, Joe Hudgins, has a record on the Antenna label, "Where Did You Stay Last Night?" Then there is Barry Sadler, the Staff Sergeant. If I do some research, goodness knows what I'll find - a singing astronaut.

We attended a crowded happy birthday party for Faron Young recently. Mary Reeves, Lorene Mann, Del Reeves, Ray Grif, Moeller Talent, Jeannie Seely, Mrs. Neil Merritt, Bob Jennings and most of Record Row were there. Next day Faron and Holda left for a tour to Germany; she will visit with her hometown and family. Emie Ashworth is working on this same tour; then Wilma Lee and Stoney were telling me the great time they just had over there. Their perfection

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Midwest

NOTES

By
MARY ANN COOPER

Correction of item in March Midwest Notes — I was under the impression that Hap Peebles' shows at the Illinois State Fair this August were to replace the annual Grand Ole Opry. But — Hap's are in addition to the Opry — and what a *Country Fair* it will be, with Loretta Lynn, Ernest Tubb & The Troubadours, Pee Wee King and band, and the Plainsmen Quartet August 21 and 22, with the opening of Saturday night's Opry the 13th. Signed for this extravaganza so far are Ray Price, Ferlin Huskey, Porter Wagoner, Connie Smith, Grandpa Jones, Carl and Pearl Butler, Ernie Ashworth, Pete Drake and his band, L. D. Keller and the Promenaders, and Emcee Ralph Emery.

Just returned from Chicago where I saw Del Reeves and The Doodle Bugs at the Rivoli Club — about the most entertaining show that could be booked in a night club! This is a beautiful club . . . used to be a German theater and still has the marquee outside.

A regular at the Rivoli is Chicago's "singing bus driver," Hayden Thompson. For his birthday recently Chris Lane presented Hayden with a perfect miniature city bus birthday cake *in green* — and edible too.

Sorry to hear about KSTL's Jenny Jamison being hurt in an accident. Jenny is fine now, though, and back at the turntables. Everyone in the St. Louis area can be mighty proud of KSTL and the citations presented to them recently by *Billboard Magazine* as the top C/W radio station in the area. Skeets Yaney is not only the No. 1 disc jockey there; he ranks high whenever national polls are taken.

Sangamon Park, located between Cisco and Monticello, Ill., will open May 29 with stars Del Reeves and The Doodle Bugs, Jim and Jesse, Ray Pillow, Martha Carson, Johnny Barton, and our ever popular "local boys."

Dave DeWitt is back at Peoria's WXCL as the all-night C/W DJ. Peoria fans say it's great to have the station back on a 24-hour-day basis. The afternoon DJ is none other than Jack Barlow — the guy you hear on the Dial recitation kicking up a storm all over the country these days — "Dear Ma."

Kitty Hawkins, of Davis, Ill., is mighty happy these days with her Capa record, "Goodbye Viet Nam" doing so well in the U.S. and also Australia. Her fan club is headed by Mrs. Rachel Jones, 345 Central Ave., Decatur, Ill. 62521.

The Buck Owens Show will be presented at the Champaign County Fair this July—believe me, it's a much looked forward to show!

After only three weeks on WICS-TV, channel 20, Springfield, "Combelt Country Style" has become so successful that MC Johnny Barton has announced its sale to several other Illinois TV stations. Two shows were taped as a trial and shown for viewers' approval.

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Southeast

NOTES

By RED WILCOX

This reporter is very proud to announce his affiliation with WBMD Radio, Baltimore, Md. as Country DJ and public relations director . . . but will retain residence in Alexandria, Va. In other radio station news, Craven Edwards (the Carolina Weed Monkey) is no longer at WKCW, Warrenton, Va. WKCW is now very hard at work on a country spectacular which will be co-sponsored by the Warrenton JayCees sometime in July. Most of the area residents are already familiar with the Warrenton contests that are held the first weekend in August and attract country music contestants from all over the country.

Negotiations for Johnny Dollar and the Compton Brothers are being processed for the area north of Philadelphia following a recent "smash" show up there starring Jean Shepard, Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs, Johnny Paycheck, and Lou, Shorty and Dolly and their great band. Incidentally, Johnny Dollar's new record, "Stop The Start" on Columbia is really getting fantastic "air play" in the Washington DC area. Johnny is now a WWVA Jamboree regular.

Bill Anderson was in town (Fairfax, Va.) February 25 and put on a show that people are still "buzzing" about. It was undoubtedly his best, and that's saying a heck of a lot!

The tickets for the WMBD spectacular in Baltimore April 16 which will star Faron Young, Marty Robbins, George Jones, The Wilburn Brothers and Connie Smith, are selling extremely well. This is a show not to be missed. More area shows include Ernest Tubb and the Texas Troubadours in Carlisle, Pa. April 12 with tickets available from Sandy Orwig. On April 8 and 9 Miss Melba Montgomery, and April 15, Roy Drusky — both at Hunter's Lodge, Fairfax, Va. The Compton Brothers will be on the WWVA Jamboree April 2.

The summer park season is also fast approaching. So far only one advance opening date to report, but it is a good one! Sante Fe Ranch, Reading, Pa. will open Sunday, May 29 with Hank Williams, Jr., and the following Sunday, June 5, will be Red Foley. How's that for openers!

Bob Taylor and the Stringdusters will be performing in Sunnyside, Long Island, N. Y. April 23. The Compton Brothers will start a tour of major Eastern cities beginning in late April.

The Northeast Country Music Association will have a meeting in Wheeling, W. Va. on April 22 and 23. Currently there is a contest going on among the member disc jockeys with their own audiences electing "most popular DJ of the Northeast." All DJ's participating will be announcing same over their individual programs. Send votes to Dody Varney.

Earl Rothgeb Promotions, P.O. Box 208, Luray, Va. has many two-hour country music tapes to rent for various purposes. You may contact him for prices.

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By DOUG LA VALLEY

North East Country Music Inc. will hold its third annual convention April 22-23 in Wheeling, W. Va., and plans are to make this the largest country music event in the history of Wheeling. For the past 33 years the WWVA Jamboree has lured millions of country fans to see the Saturday night show in Wheeling, and with the Jamboree still gaining in popularity, a big time is predicted in the old town for April 22 and 23.

NECMI is dedicated to the promotion of country music in this part of the country, and since its inception in 1964, has grown rapidly. Members are artists, DJ's, record companies, news media, radio and TV promoters and fans from all over the U.S. and Canada. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining to come to Wheeling for the convention—you may be able to play an important part in country music and its future.

Events will commence Friday morning and continue through Saturday night and the Jamboree. It is expected that tickets will be sold out far in advance and many groups around the country are chartering buses for the occasion.

There will be business meetings, artist and fan club get-togethers, and reelection of officers during the convention. Officers serving for the past year were: Swampwater Jake, Rumford, Me., president; Smokey Green, Glens Falls, N. Y., vice president; Barry Frank, Albany, N. Y., secretary-treasurer, all country Deejays.

The Wheeling Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the affair. For more information, write to Dody Varney, 6646 Old Plum Road, Ford Edward, N. Y. 12828.

NASHVILLE NOTES

continued from page 6

personified lead guitarist, Joe Edwards, was along.

Country entertainer, Eddie Snell, expects to reach Washington D.C. April 11, for an appointment with our President Johnson. Eddie started this same date last year from Gardena, California. He is going by horseback on his stallion Pegasus, for the official American Heart Fund, while his wife and three children drive ahead in the camper-horse trailer to set up appointments and book show dates. He finances this year long trek himself by singing and strumming. The donations are made by envelopes he distributes and mailed to the Heart Fund. Be sure to mention his name on the envelope, so they can tab the final amount to be presented to the President. Ott Devine invited him to sing on the Opry, where he received a tumultuous encore; his voice is extremely different and fine. The thirteenth pair of shoes for the horse were replaced here; these were presented to Roy Acuff and now on display in his museum. It was intriguing to me to see Roy out on the Broadway sidewalk pounding the nails down; but he kept the imbedded mud and hay in the shoes for a realistic effect.

Music City Women's Association has a going away party for Nancy Tennant; she is being transferred to

1 WAIT'IN IN YOUR WELFARE LINE

Buck Owens—Capitol 5566



2 BABY

Wilma Burgess—Decca 31862



3 SKID ROW JOE

Porter Wagoner—RCA Victor 8723



4 SNOWFLAKE

Jim Reeves—RCA Victor 8719



5 TRUE LOVE'S A BLESSING

Sonny James—Capitol 5536



6 KEEP THE FLAG FLYING

Johnny Wright—Decca 31875



7 I WANT TO GO WITH YOU

Eddy Arnold—RCA Victor 8749



8 BORN LOSER

Don Gibson—RCA Victor 8732



9 GOLDEN GUITAR

Bill Anderson—Decca 31890



10 DEAR UNCLE SAM

Loretta Lynn—Decca 51893



open up the new Epic Records office on Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood. One of our guests was Paul Anka; Bobby Vinton gave his hello. See you next month.

CANADIAN NOTES

continued from page 4

Gary Buck and Dianne Leigh were voted top male and female Canadian artists in 1965. Gary has signed with Capital Records of Canada and his first release "If That's All You've Given" will be out in a few weeks. Dianne Leigh is a regular on Carl Smith's Country Music Hall.

Russ Vernon, country spinner at CKLX Calgary, is drawing large crowds to his "Golden West Country Caravan" every Thursday at the local Moose Auditorium. Live shows are now a part of the weekend activity. Russ makes appearances with his 8-piece band in and around the Calgary area. His rodeo LP of songs of the oilfields was released in February.

WEST COAST NOTES

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Other awards were *Best Country Music Club*, The Palomino in North Hollywood; *Best Songwriter*, Roger Miller; *Best Music Publisher*, Central Songs; *Best A&R Man*, Ken Nelson of Capitol Records; *Best Steel Guitar*, Red Rhodes; *Best Fiddle*, Billy Armstrong; *Best Lead Guitar*, Phil Baugh; *Best Piano*, Billy Liebert; *Best Drums*, Muddy Berry; *Best Radio Personality*, Biff Collie of KFOX; and *Country Music's Man Of The Year*, Roger Miller.

It was a tremendous show and well received by everyone. The Academy plans it to be an annual affair and it should be another giant step for the recognition that country music deserves. It just proves something that all of us here have known for a long time... Country Music is BIG in Southern California.

SOUTHEAST NOTES

continued from page 7

Mr. Carlton Haney of Roanoke, Va. has teamed up with Keith Fowler from Winston-Salem, N.C. The purpose—to bring the best country music shows to Southeast U.S.

WDON's newscaster-DJ, Mike Kelly has added song writing and recording to his list of credits. Mike recently cut a "blue-grass" type record with the song subject "Chinese food." This I gotta hear! Slim Moore—also of WDON, Wheaton, Md., and his lovely wife, Helga, are now "on staff" also on the Music Capitol Newsletter which we have talked about before in this column. Slim is quite versatile—he does the official "U.S. Marines taped country music shows" on several area stations, is promoting country shows, and his latest endeavor was helping Margaret Colburn "lay out" the print for her Dottie West Fan Club Newsletter. A lot more besides just "spinning the latest country records" emanates from WDON!

MIDWEST NOTES

continued from page 7

Over a thousand cards and letters were received asking that it continue as a weekly series.

Larry Heaberlin of Des Moines, Ia. writes that WOI-TV will be carrying a show shortly sponsored by the Coca Cola Company. National talent will be fea-

tured as guests including Ernie Ashworth and Gordon Terry, who are on some of the first shows. Larry invites anyone who is going through Des Moines on a Sunday afternoon to drop in and watch the taping.

I'll close with a BRAVO to our editor, Mr. Harris, for his reply to that ridiculous article in *Saturday Evening Post*! If you missed the March issue of Country Music LIFE, it would be worth sending for a back issue, if this article were the only thing in it, which, of course, it wasn't as CML is always full of interesting material. Well, I certainly need not remind YOU of this, do I.

TIPS FROM THE TOP

continued from page 6

your goal, don't you dare be easily discouraged. Just keep in mind that there's not much room for people who want to be in the club but who are unwilling to pay the dues.

Another publication ran not too long ago a series of articles about the "new breed" in country music. These stories dealt with the people who have come into the field in the past few years and who have been successful. They are a "new breed" because they know how to accept the challenge of a big job and meet it with a big effort. These are stars like Buck Owens, Leroy Van Dyke, George Hamilton IV, Roy Drusky, Connie Smith, Bobby Lord and others too numerous to mention. People like that are going to be around for a long time.

If you read this column because you someday aspire a career in country music show business, your name could easily be added to the above list by even this time next year. Try and remember, though, that here, as everywhere, there's no substitute for hard work. And yet nothing is really "work" unless you'd rather be doing something else.

As yourself this question: Would you like being in country music so much that you'd do it for nothing? If so, then you might appreciate this little quotation I carry with me in my wallet: *Find something you like doing so much you'd do it for nothing. Then learn to do it so well they'll pay you to do it, and you've got it made.*

I wish you all nothing but the best.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

DEL Reeves, United Artist recording star, is expected to sign a three year movie contract with the parent company in March. He appears in "Second Fiddle to a Steel Guitar," "Forty Acre Feud," and "The Las Vegas Hillbilly," motion pictures soon to be released. Del is currently charting with his latest single "Women Do Funny Things To Me," and his "Girl On The Billboard" rode high on the Country lists for several months. His latest, "One Bum Town," written by Moss Rose and Hank Mills, is now hitting the mails. Del is looking forward to his new career, "The 15 days we spent here making 'Forty Acre Feud' were lovely days. I grew so close to the other people involved that I almost wanted to cry when it was over. The only thing I didn't like was that 6:00 a.m. makeup call; you come out looking like an Indian until that stuff dries."

* * * * *

For the sixth consecutive year the Houston, Texas Fire Dept. will look to proceeds of a country music extravaganza to beef up its burial and pension fund. This year's show will be held at the Sam Houston Coliseum and will headline Ray Price, Porter Wagoner and the Wagonmasters, The Wilburn Bros., Sonny James and The Southern Gentlemen, Red Sovine, Merle Travis and Loretta Lynn. W. E. Moeller, arranger of the production since its inception in 1961, revealed that the show's beneficiary, the Burial and Pension Fund, has received a total of \$118,303.35 to date from previous shows.

* * * * *

WYNN Stewart has a new hit record on Capitol. It's "The Tourist," from the pen of the late Curtis Leach. What helps to make this record special is that all proceeds are to go to Curtis' widow and children. The song tells the story of a tourist who wanders into a city strip joint and discovers, on stage, a home town beauty contest winner. The girl has failed as an actress, but pride won't let her go home and admit defeat.

* * * * *

"THE largest winter crowd for a Country Music show in the history of Detroit's Cobo Arena," is the way Dick Blake, president of Sponsored Events, Inc., described the 15,000 payees for a whopping \$37,500 who came out in threatening weather to hear Del Reeves, George Jones, Minnie Pearl, Sonny James and The Wilburn Bros. Following his usual practice of giving blocks of tickets to area indigents, Blake released \$200 worth of seats to the Hazel Park Michigan Senior Citizens. Sponsored Events plans three shows yearly in Cobo Arena, the next in the series to be on April 24. The spring show, also packaged by Hubert Long, will feature Ferlin Husky, Roy Drusky, Porter Wagoner, Loretta Lynn, Faron Young, Wilma Burgess and Jean Shephard. Blake reports that \$1,750 in tickets were sold during the February show for the April performance.

* * * * *



BUCK Owens has just returned from a highly successful tour of the Pacific Northwest. Dates included performances in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and two days at the annual Fur Rendezvous in Anchorage, Alaska. "Rondy Week," as the Alaskans call it, is the biggest week in the year for thousands of homesteaders and villagers, and also attracts many outsiders. There's a parade, fur auction, the "Miss Anchorage" and "Miss Alaska" beauty pageants, World Championship Dog Sled Races, beard judging, Alaskan film showings, and a long list of other exciting events. Photo shows Buck Owens and the Buckaroos on arrival in Anchorage. (Left to right) KBYR DJ Jim Carroll, Farrel Ingham, promoters Ray Evarts and Hugh Petrini, Buckaroo Doyle Holly, Buck Owens, manager Jack McFadden, Buckaroos Tom Brumley, Don Rich and Willie Cantu, and "Miss Alaska" Mary Nidiffer.

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RCA Victor songstress Dottie West modeled her unique coiffure arranged especially for a Valentine's Day appearance on "The Bobby Lord TV Show." The fact that Dottie's natural hair color is a deep, rich red only tended to add realism to the romantic get-up.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

HICKORY Records, riding the crest of a wave of a wave of major country hits, announced new album plans and important upcoming tours for a group of its artists, being set through the affiliated Acuff-Rose Artist Corporation. In addition, it was announced that Don Gibson, key writer for Acuff-Rose, has been booked for a return engagement on the Jimmy Dean TV show. On the chart front, Hickory is represented with four entries, with Bill Carlisle's "What Kind of Deal is This," enjoying top five status. Moving up fast are Bob Luman's "Five Miles from Home" and Ernie Ashworth's "I Wish." James O'Gwynn's "Red Light on My Heart" is now also showing in a number of station listings and charts. Beyond this, Bob Gallion's newest release, "Got the World by the Tail" and "Not Once but a Hundred Times" is getting two-sided play. As a result of Carlisle's success, his album, "The Best of Bill Carlisle," is being rushed out. Ashworth, who has had a string of recent top hits, is represented with a new album, issued just a month ago. Album plans are also in the works for Bob Luman and Gallion. Meanwhile, on the booking front, Acuff-Rose Artists Chief, Howard Forrester, has set both Carlisle and Luman for a tour of armed forces bases in Germany next month. Clyde Beavers is now on tour visiting bases in the Caribbean area, while Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper and the entire Clinch Mountain Gang left last week to make the circuit of armed forces bases in Germany.

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IF there were a prize for chart longevity, Tower Records' Dick Curless should win hands down. Curless' release, "A Tombstone Every Mile," which first appeared in the national charts approximately one year ago, is still a very hot item according to one Canadian radio station. In the CKWS (Kingston, Ontario) Top 20 survey dated January 25, 1966, "A Tombstone Every Mile" holds down the No. 19 slot. And that's not all! On the same listing, the current Dick Curless release, "Travelin' Man," is rated No. 12. Presently at home in Bangor, Maine, Dick Curless will soon join the new Buck Owens American Music Show. Prominent in their schedule is a March 25 concert at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

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BOBBY Wright, Hickory recording artist, will be a temporary addition to the Johnny Wright-Kitty Wells road show in May, June and July while vacationing from his regular role in television's "Mc Hale's Navy." Bobby, wife Brenda and 1-year-old daughter Teresa Lee Ann will reside in Nashville during the three month break. The addition will make an exceptionally powerful Wright-Wells package, since all featured artists will have hit songs working in their favor. Johnny's topper is "Keep The Flag Flying;" Kitty's is "A Woman Half My Age;" Bill Phillips has out "Put It Off Until Tomorrow" and Bobby's fast climber is "No Not Quite."

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DOLLIE Denny, Cedarwood Publishing treasurer, is regaled by the firm's newest full time song writer, Eddie Earl Bush. Bush co-wrote Eddie Arnold's hit "What's He Doing In My World."

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IF Red Sovine ever has to move away from Nashville, he's convinced he can hang his hat in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada and run for mayor the next day. On February 3 Red Deer natives gave the Starday recording artist the warmest reception of his career on the coldest night of his life. In 10 below zero weather, with wind at 10 knots, the small town's populace braved the elements and cheered so loudly and stood so long in line that the show's originally scheduled single performance was expanded to three separate ones, all in the same night, beginning at 7:00 and terminating at 2:02 am. When Red left town the next day, several die-hard snow plow operators saluted his departure by plastering "Giddyup Go" signs on their cabs.

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FERLIN Husky, who recently returned from a Hollywood filming of a new Country Music movie tentatively titled "Howdy Las Vegas," has been signed for an appearance on "The Merv Griffin Show." Hubert Long announced that Husky will appear on the Westinghouse "Group W" production. Ferlin's latest Capitol release, "Money Greases The Wheels," is expected to be featured on the show. In addition to a story-swapping session between the Capitol artist and host Griffin. The show originates in New York.

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KEY Talent, Inc. and Newkeys Music, Inc. have moved to new quarters at 1531 Demonbreun St., just around the corner from Music Row-16th Ave. South in Nashville. Artists under the direction of Key Talent, Inc. include Jimmy Newman, Dave Dudley, Bobby Bare, Billy Grammer, Linda Manning, Shirlee Hunter, George Kent, Buddy Meredith, David Price, The Blue Boys.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



VIEWERS in the Boston area are now watching the first weekly C/W show in Beantown TV history. Written, produced and hosted by Bob Riley, the show is seen Saturdays from 5:00 to 5:30 over WIHS TV. No stranger to country audiences, Riley lists records on Dot, MGM, Coral, Carlton and various London subsids to his credit, and comes to WIHS from radio station WHIL, where he served as director of the artist bureau, was a featured performer, and hosted a daily DJ stint on the all country formatted operation. The show is a fast paced 30 minutes of the modern country sound, featuring such outstanding local performers as The Chisholm Brothers and The Country Squires, Joey O'Neill, Don Edwards, The Rainbow Valley Boys & Sweetheart, plus special guest stars. Plans call for expansion to a full hour, to be presented on prime evening time via video tape, and including a live studio audience.

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"POSSUM Holler Opry," top rated C/W TV show in Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky, was recently honored to receive news that the "Opry" is the longest running (continuously aired from the same studio, same cast, and same TV station for the last six years) country music TV show in the midwest—and the nation as well. Telecast live every Sunday afternoon from the studios of WGEM TV Quincy, Ill., the show is scheduled for full syndication next month in full color. Vernon Glen, Sims recording artist, was a recent guest and "broke" his new release, "Looks Like I'm Gonna Fight Again" on the show. The complete TV cast will be featured on a new Wizard album in the near future.

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GOSPEL comes to the Jimmy Dean Show! All over the world of music there is a growing trend toward the type of music generally called "Country." It's growth is obvious on radio dials, TV channels, auditoriums, schoolhouses, assembly halls, and country clubs. Concurrently another type of music is increasing in popularity—this parallel companion-in-music is commonly referred to as "Gospel." Performers in the Gospel field are primarily grouped as quartets, plus an accompanist. They travel the U.S.A. . . and the world . . . with their "message in song." Two leading groups in the Gospel field are The Blackwood Brothers and The Statesmen, with Hovie Lister. The Jimmy Dean Show became a showcase for Gospel music when The Statesmen taped their initial appearance on network TV, and aired Friday, March 4. This quartet is already seen in more than 50 television markets, in the syndicated show "Singing Time in Dixie." And their background in Gospel is impressive; they've recorded over 20 album sessions with RCA Victor. Pianist and dynamic manager of the group is natty Hovie Lister, sometimes called "The Liberator of Gospel Music" and a thoroughly professional showman. Onstage he is surrounded by Jack Toney, lead singer; Doy Ott, baritone; Rozie Rozell, tenor; and "Big Chief" Jim Wetherington, bass. Tom Egan, Dean Show producer, says: "We've been well aware of the growing interest in Gospel Music . . . and feel that The Jimmy Dean Show with it's wide coverage on the ABC-TV Network has been practically a pioneer in presenting Country Music on network television. And now, with the appearance of The Statesmen Quartet with Hovie Lister, he'll be doing the same for Gospel Music." This booking of Gospel Music is a boost to the industry and the March 4 appearance of this top-notch quartet should spur more action in the Gospel field . . . and in particular, for The Statesmen Quartet.

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Hovie Lister, second from right, and The Statesmen Quartet look pleased after the Jimmy Dean appearance. Members of the Quartet are from left—Jack Toney, lead singer; Doy Ott, baritone; Rozie Rozell, tenor, Hovie Lister, pianist, mgr; and "Big Chief" Jim Wetherington, bass.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



KITTY Wells (left) and Mary Reeves discuss Kitty's latest album effort. The LP entitled "Kitty Wells Sings Songs Made Famous By Jim Reeves," was released this week by Decca Records and is the singer's 19th album.

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"BEFORE I entered the music business I was over-awed by all the rumors about the coldness and self-centeredness of the big pros. The whole thing was a myth; it seems like the bigger name a star has the more friendly the person really is." That was the comment of Decca artist Wilma Burgess, who is currently collecting chart points with "Baby" and recently worked the Jimmy Dean Show with Buck Owens, Charlie Weaver and Pearl Bailey. Miss Bailey, internationally acclaimed for her Blues and pop styling, "was strictly home-folks, off camera," says Wilma. Wilma's "Baby" is apparently going to elevate her to star category. Now she knows she'll like the company.

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CARL Belew has returned from a tour of Germany and England, and negotiations are already under way for a return visit. He is meanwhile going to Nashville for recording sessions and to attend the NARAS dinner in which he has been nominated in two categories.

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STONEWALL Jackson is set for the busiest series of his career, says Bob Neal. Aside from 15 to 16 days on the road each month in March and April, he is booked for a 15 day tour of Japan and the Far East in May. His new Columbia disc - "The Minutemen."

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ORIGINATING in College Station, Texas, a big Louisiana Hayride Show is set for March 19 featuring Flatt & Scruggs, Little Jimmy Dickens, Archie Campbell and Wilma Burgess.

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WARNER Mack, busy with promotional work on his "Talking To The Wall," is also answering inquiries on the Coca Cola jingles he cut recently. Information is that the jingles will be available for country radio stations around April 1.

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WTUF Radio, Mobile, Ala., is known as "The Country King," and is the only full time C/W station in that area. It was rated the No. 1 C/W station in 1965 and a very high No. 3 in an 11-station poll. Jim Smith, president, and Jack Howat, general manager, say that sales, both local and national, have increased nearly 50% since the change to a full country format nearly three years ago. WTUF recently co-sponsored a country music spectacular and in two shows set a record attendance of over 11,000. Jack Cardwell is PD. Romeo Sullivan, Bill Smith and Boots Barnes are record spinners. They attribute the popularity of WTUF to the informal manner of programming. WTUF is active in local affairs, and they have helped raise money for various benefits. Last year, WTUF had a hand in raising over \$1300 to send a small child to a hospital for heart surgery. The staff and management give all the credit to the listeners—"the kind of people who listen to country music."

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ANOTHER newcomer to Cedarwood Publishing Co. is Jim Hayner, who has been appointed manager of their Sound Studios and replaces Roger Sovine, who has gone to Heather Publications.

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DEWEY Groom of Longhorn Records is mighty busy these days—with two releases, Phil Baugh's "One Man Band" and the late Curtis Leach's "Golden Guitar" on station charts across the nation. Groom recently announced a special Curtis Leach album will be released within a few weeks. Two recent releases, Billy Gray's "Rotten Love" and Janet McBride's "Common Law Wife" are showing much action.

NEWS NEWS NEWS



COUNTRY music spectacular, hosted by Radio station K-BER, took place at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium February 6. Shown here are Marvis Thompson, Ferlin Huskey, Ray Price and Skeeter Davis. Other stars on the show were Tex Ritter, Claude King, Hank Cochran and others.

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K-BER announces that Max Gardner has been named program director. Max will also handle the DJ chores from 2 pm to 6 pm. He has had 15 years experience in the Country Music field and is considered one of the outstanding Country personalities in the United States today.

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NEGOTIATIONS were completed recently between United Artist C/W singer Johnny Darrell and Moeller Talent Inc., naming the agency exclusive booking agent for Darrell. The young entertainer's most recent recording and current hit is "As Long As The Wind Blows."

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"THE Traveling Texan," Billy Walker, is contemplating changing his nickname and his tale of woe requires no further explanation. He socked into a snow bank enroute to the airport, crumpling his Caddy's fender. After swapping into his wife's Mustang, he was slammed again, this time by an errant motorist. He finally made it to the airport, only to have his guitar mangled in the baggage department and his head thumped when the plane, taking off 1½ hours late, mushed over an unseen snow bank. The tardy takeoff made him miss his first connection in Dallas, but the second one flew him to Frisco barely in time for curtain call. After three days of PA's, he was forced to fly 1,000 deviating air miles in order to get back to Nashville, only to find himself locked out of the house. A note explained the problem: "Billy - we're at sister's house. The furnace blew up and we haven't had heat for two days. Please call the repairman." And they call him "The Travelin' Texan?"

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FOR the first five days of the San Antonio Live-stock Show all records were broken, according to Mr. Joe Freeman, chairman of the board. Overall attendance set a new record of 175,477 paid admissions and eight performances at the rodeo, showed 67,911. This makes the eighth year for star Rex Allen.

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RADIO stations WGIG AM and FM in Brunswick, Ga. began programming "All American Music" from 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm daily on February 15. Featuring "Pinky" Pearson, the program presents the best of current and all time favorites in country and western music with emphasis on the "Nashville Sound."

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A cheering crowd of 1,600 inmates packed the Tennessee State Prison auditorium for an evening of Country Music fun and entertainment. The show was donated free of charge to the prison and featured Faron Young and The Deputies, Archie Campbell and Skeeter Davis. At the conclusion of the show, Faron Young commented: "I never thought I'd see the day a group of inmates would cheer on 'The Sheriff and his Deputies'," referring to the nickname of his entertainment group, "but they were one of the most responsive audiences I've ever played to and we had a great time."

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KAY Arnold, recording artist and award winning BMI songwriter, recently formed Wizard Records. From her new offices in the RCA Building in Nashville, she announced the appointment of Marvin L. Hoerner, Midwest promo man, as vice president, and Gary Walker, Nashville rep for Painted Desert Music, as A&R director. The label will be recording strictly country music and is in the process of signing recording artists. Hit songwriter ("Walk On By") Kendall Hayes has been pacted by the firm. Wizard presently has two new releases showing action across the country—Harold Smith's "I Put Away Some Memories" and Larry Bull's "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow."

NEWS NEWS NEWS



"IT'S not that I can't write or don't trust contracts; it just takes me a little longer than most folks to make up my mind about a good thing," explained Whitey Ford, Nashville's Duke of Paducah to Moeller Talent VP Jack Andrews, as he gives a cautious, last-minute eye to the agency's exclusive booking contract. The Duke has actually worked out of the agency since 1955, but never under contract until this March.

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SPECIALIZING in the promotion of Country artists and their records on the East Coast is new agency, J.B. Artist & Record Promotions, based in Pa. They advise that first on their agenda is Tom Donahue and Jack Turner, the "Country Music Gents." The J.B. staff and "Gents" will be in Wheeling, W. Va. April 22 and 23 for the Northeast Country Music convention. Jack Turner is a member of the board of directors of the newly formed NECMI and the editor and publisher of COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE elected as honorary board member.

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"BELIEVE It Or Not" by Ripley item in a recent Sunday's *Chattanooga Times* sheds insight on the ancestry of country cutup Archie Campbell. According to Ripley: "Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll, sacrificed six sons to gain a daughter-in-law. He kidnapped Muriel Cawdor, whom he married to his son after a pitched battle in 1499 in which six of his other sons were slain." Such a revelation prompts the present-day Campbell to capitalize thusly: "Oh yes. Didn't I ever tell you about 'The Men In My Little Girl's Life'?" Hmm....

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ANY station not receiving Longhorn, Wizard, Capa or Sims Records will receive all present and future releases by dropping a note on your station letterhead to Marvin L. Hoerner Enterprises, P.O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois.

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A 66-day string of personal appearances for Red Sovine and his runaway hit "Giddyup Go" has been confirmed. "It could be a record for this time of year," said Larry Moeller. "Normally, we have several artists playing the fair and park circuits hot-and-heavy in July, August and September. But, to my recollection, no individual has undertaken a 2½ month string of PAs this early in the year before."

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DJs who did not receive a copy of Orville Couch's Monument release "Permanent Wave" b/w "Down Where The Hurt Begins" may obtain an immediate mailing by writing Sam Gibbs Orchestra Service, 2404 Holliday, Wichita Falls, Texas. Orville and The Troublemakers recently played a two week engagement at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. They are now on an extended tour through Wyoming, Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. They will return to the Golden Nugget April 14.

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BEN Smathers and his Stoney Mountain Cloggers are now being booked exclusively by Nashville's Moeller Talent Inc. The world famous square dance team is a veteran of movie and network TV experience, and is the only square dance group to ever appear at Carnegie Hall.

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CARL



SMITH

By FRANK HARRIS

They used to call him "Mr. Romance." Now they call him "Sir."

At least that's the impression we had when we visited Carl Smith for this Country Music LIFE feature. It was the first time we'd seen him in about ten or twelve years, and things had changed considerably—in a highly complimentary way.

The old "Mr. Romance" used to rip around town in a fire engine red Cadillac convertible, one of three red racers he used to keep revved up and ready to go. And love letters by the hundreds poured in weekly from lovely lassies with stars in their eyes.

Carl Smith is just as appealing as he ever was. His magnetism hasn't diminished at all. The "Sir" label is one we attached, however, simply because he has matured magnificently and deserves the manly moniker.

The racy autos have given way to station wagons and a fabulous homestead staked out in Franklin, Tennessee, a suitable setting for a gentleman farmer, a devoted family man and a highly successful, hard-working businessman . . . all of which he is.

As a boy in Maynardville, Tenn., Carl's main thoughts were generally preoccupied with farm work, school and music. The latter interest took priority over the other two when, at age 13, he took top honors at a local amateur show. Thus, the "bug" took hold and he resolved to become a Country Music entertainer.

Things like that happen around Maynardville. Its two favorite sons are Carl and Roy Acuff.

While still in his teens, Carl worked shows, mostly as a sideman, at Knoxville's WROL radio station until World War II intervened. He enlisted in the Navy and spent the next 18 months aboard ship.

At the termination of his tour of duty, he was beckoned back to the Knoxville radio station for added air play.

"I more-or-less station-hopped for the next few years between Knoxville, Augusta and Ashville," he explained. "The longest length of time I spent in any one place was 2½ years in Knoxville. I was working for Archie Campbell, not with him as he'll tell you, and was his highest paid employee at \$50 a week. That seemed like a gold mine back then."

Increasing radio popularity and guest appearances on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry ultimately led to regular Opry status in 1950. Then a string of hit records began that ran his popularity level to the chart tops.

Carl's paneled den walls bear approximately 20 plaques and trophies which attest to his popularity during the next 10 years. He's proudest, perhaps, of those lauding "The Tunesmiths," his 1955 backup band as the nation's number one group, and a Billboard Award he holds along with only about 15 other artists.

One of his most treasured possessions is a huge, specially-made trophy presented to him recently by the National Cutting Horse Association in recognition of his participation in the organization.

"Let Ole Mother Nature Have Her Way" was his best-selling single and is now a Country Music standard. It sold over 800,000 records, an accomplishment that's rare, indeed, in the Country market today.

Others which had tremendous sales were "Ain't Love A Hurting Thing?" "Hey Joe," "Let's Live A Little," "Mr. Moon," "Don't Just Stand There," and "Loose Talk."

Those were hectic, hard years for Carl, with countless hours being spent on the road enroute to personal appearances. He and his troupe also traveled with the Philip Morris Show which toured the nation at about this time.

Today, Carl's popularity with Country Music fans is actually greater than ever and his Columbia record sales remain at a brisk clip. The advent of network television and high speed jet travel have taken much of the "sting" out of being a star so that now his exposure is greater and the time spent traveling is less.

One of the most significant turn-of-events in Smith's career occurred early last year when he was hand picked to headline a weekly "Carl Smith Country Music Hall" TV show in Canada. The show is seen coast-to-coast during "prime time" each Monday night and has made its host something of a national idol. In a recent poll, Carl's show was rated in popularity over "I Love Lucy," "The Dick Van Dyke Show," and "The Red Skelton Show."

"Carl seems to enjoy doing the show quite a bit," explained his Nashville agent W. E. Moeller. "He flies to Toronto once, sometimes twice, a month and films several segments with Nashville artists as his guests. Canadian talent is represented also. Sometime this year, the program will pioneer in Canadian color television, and of course we feel it was an honor for Carl's show to be singled out in this manner."



Stateside, Carl has continued making personal appearances and is heard in many radio markets as Busch Bavarian Beer's "toe-tappin" salesman.

Carl's "band" now consists of only one person, Johnny Sibert, and road miles have been converted into air miles. Sibert joined Carl in 1952 and with a two year exception, has been with him ever since.

Carl, of course, continues to record, make personal appearances and work his own TV show in Canada. He's also had parts in two legitimate western movies, "The Badge of Marshall Brennan" and "Buffalo Guns," and has made guest appearances on television's "Porter Wagoner Show" and "The Jimmy Dean Show." Dean and Smith are best friends.

It would seem that the aforementioned activities would more than occupy the average man's waking hours. But the last thing Carl Smith is, is an "average man."

Carl houses his happy family in a rambling, ranch-type house 18 miles from Nashville in Franklin, Tenn. The home and the 300 acres surrounding it make up "The Smith Ranch" and Carl spends every waking

Carl is recognized as one of the flashiest dressers in the Country Music business. For this session, he dons casual wear – a tailored shirt topped with a tan, cardigan sweater.

hour actually working the huge spread for fun and profit.

The Maynardville farmboy element seems to come out in him the minute he comes off the road and crosses the cattle gap at the gate. Within an hour he'll be roaming hills on horseback (he's a superb horseman) or clearing off land to give grazing room to a huge Black Angus herd.

Constant sidekicks with Carl on his hillside roamings are the members of his family, either individually or collectively. Wife Goldie is the gorgeous mother hen to four lovely children: Carlene, 11; Lori Lynn, 8; Carl Jr., 5 and Larry Dean, born October 1965. The baby was named after two of Carl's closest cronies, Larry Moeller and Jimmy Dean.

"I've got two 'special' children out back here,



Carl looks proudly at the trophy awarded him recently by the National Cutting Horse Assn. He was given it in appreciation for promotion he has done on the Association's behalf and he considers it one of his most prized possessions.

Frank. They're family members too," Carl joked as he opened the back door to introduce Sophie, a Boxer, and Thurber, a Great Dane.

The Smith family is active in the community life of nearby Franklin, a small town of approximately 6,000 people. Goldie drives school hookups and is neck deep in Scouting and church work, while Carl is a major booster of the town's annual rodeo (it runs three days annually and attracts thousands from all over the state).

The remainder of 1966 will find Carl working out the kinks in Canadian color TV and, perhaps, making a movie or two. It's all show-biz, so it's rather unpredictable at this point, but it is a certainty that, at the very least, he'll be involved in more activity than any two normal men . . . and he wouldn't have it any other way.



Goldie (Mrs. Carl Smith) gives last minute comfort to her favorite wrangler prior to his departure for the day with Dad.



You can be sure that talented guitarist Grady Martin didn't have to "gun" his way into this Carl Smith Columbia recording session. He'd more than likely have to "gun" his way out, since he's an absolute "music must" at all Smith sessions.



Carl's den bespeaks many of his interests — music, pool and of course, horses. When not relaxing here, he can usually be found in the saddle looking over his prize-winning Black Angus herd or just riding around his 300-acre ranch. The rig shown here, incidentally, is for parades and show only.



Carl, Jr. is his Poppa's devoted sidekick at the Smith Ranch. Here he puts on his "running boots" to help match pace with his Dad's long stride.



The father-son duo enjoys each other's companionship after work day hours as well as during. Here the twosome teams up on a cue ball.

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY

BECOMES

COUNTRY/POLITAN

By SLIM STERLING



CONNIE SMITH



EDDY ARNOLD



DON BOWMAN

Long the largest metropolitan area in the nation with the smallest amount of country music coverage, New York City and its suburban neighbors of Long Island, Westchester and Rockland Counties, and the entire Northern New Jersey area are suddenly taking country music into their hearts and homes.

Chiefly responsible for the sudden upsurge of interest in our truly American musical form is Radio Station WJRZ, Newark, N. J., which went to a full-time 24-hours-a-day, C/W format as of September 15, 1965. Not only is this the first radio station within 90 miles of the world's largest city to give full attention to "the sounds of Nashville;" it is the first time in more than five years that any major station in the area has given more than 30 minutes of country music programming a day. (A number of small-wattage independents and FM stations have featured some country disc shows, but their listening audiences have been relatively small.)

WJRZ currently puts out a 5000 watt signal by day; 1000 after sundown. However, the government has granted the construction permit for 5000 at night as well, so soon listeners who now lose clear reception

at dusk will be able to hear the station clearly a full 24 hours.

"Within six months," says Harry Reith, general manager of WJRZ, "we should have a New York City area signal equal to that of any New York City area station."

First big in-person country package sponsored by WJRZ was brought to Symphony Hall, Newark, Friday night, November 12, 1965. A complete sell-out, standing room only crowd of 3800-plus saw Eddy Arnold, Don Bowman, Margie Bowes, Connie Smith and Leroy Van Dyke in a four-hour performance that was a pacesetter for things to come.

Their second such country music spectacular, presented Sunday, January 23, was sold out 10 days in advance, with tickets ranging in price from \$4.00 to \$2.00 again were snapped up as fans jammed Symphony Hall to see Ray Price and the Cherokee Cowboys, Red Sovine, Webb Pierce, Max Powell and Little Jimmy Dickens.

"We are planning at least four shows a year," said Ed Neilson, program director for WJRZ, on the occasion of the November show. "New York City's



MARGIE BOWES



LEROY VAN DYKE

Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden are under consideration as sites of future promotions."

True to his word, WJRZ's most ambitious undertaking yet will be a three-night presentation in February: Friday night, February 25, at Carnegie Hall, New York City, Saturday the 26th at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and Sunday the 27th at Symphony Hall, Newark. Featured at these shows will be Marty Robbins, Norma Jean, Hank Cochran, Little Jimmy Dickens and the Willis Brothers.

Northern New Jersey has long been famous for country music night spots, such as the *Copa Club* in Secaucus, and the *Cotal Bar* in East Paterson. These clubs, in addition to featuring top New Jersey talent nightly, have been in the forefront in engaging nationally known artists. However, without radio stations willing to promote country music, news of such visiting guest stars was accomplished strictly by personal mailing lists and word-of-mouth.

For the many smaller clubs of North Jersey, Long Island, and the southern counties of New York State, the picture for the country fan was even more bleak.

Local talent, good, but comparatively unknown, appeared weekends, but over the last five years, seemed to be fighting a losing battle to the heavens of the twist, rock and roll and discotheque.

Since the first of October last year however, all this has changed. Names like Ray Price and the Cherokee Cowboys, Roy Clark, Del Reeves, Ernest Ashworth, Kenny Roberts, Ferlin Husky, Slim Whitman, and Hank Williams, Jr. have made appearances in the "Country/Politan" area. In addition, the artists that can be found playing the Northeast regularly, such as Elton Britt, Marvin Rainwater, and Smokey Warren, are now on hand locally frequently more than once a month.

Country music stars whose names were household words two decades ago, but who retired from the field in the face of the avalanche of rock and roll interest in this area, are back on the scene, pleasing their old fans and winning new ones weekly. Such is Rosalie Allen, one-time top country femme vocalist with RCA Victor and DJ on New York City's station WOY with her "Prairie Stars" show heard six nights weekly.





Texas Jim Robertson, also featured for years with RCA and later with MGM Records, is beginning to make his first professional appearances in the area since being laid low by a neck and back injury sustained in an accident five years ago.

Perhaps happiest of all about the recent turn of events is the average country music fan of the area. For years, in addition to the scarcity of in-person shows by his favorite artists, he had to put up with the jeers and ridicule of his "pseudo-sophisticated" associates about his "hick" tastes.

I could have had a fight on my hands quicker calling another kid a farmer than if I named him an 'S-O-B'," says one rural New York Stater whose family came to the big city area. The general attitude of the majority of the public in and around New York City seemed to be that anyone who liked this music of the soil and grass roots was mentally inferior and "square."

This attitude seems to be slowly but surely dying out as country music gains increased exposure in the New York City area. With Jimmy Dickens' "Bird of Paradise," Marvin Rainwater's "Indian Burial Ground," and Dave Dudley's "What We're Fighting For" high on the country popularity charts in the area, more than one area station, even if not country

music oriented, is giving these and other country sounds occasional plays. The so-called "hep" listener is accepting this brand of music and in turn liking it, simply because it's part of the programming of shows he's used to dialing on the home or car radio.

Another example of the fact that country music is winning fans in the Northeast was evidenced outside Symphony Hall the night of WJAZ's first "Country Caravan" show mentioned before. While in the mobile studio for an interview on Bob Lockwood's DJ show, this writer noticed that many in the crowd gathered on the curb outside were typical teenagers—possibly with not enough spare cash to go inside to see the show, but anxious to get a glimpse, or better yet, an autograph of one of the performers. These teens seemed every bit as enthusiastic for what WJAZ was promoting as they have been for years with the "Top 50 Pop Format" that several of the area's major stations have carried.

Going by someone's pronouncement that "youth of today is the hope of tomorrow," these young folks, many of them in this part of the country experiencing country music for the first time, are going to be the ardent country-western fan of tomorrow. And that makes the New York-New Jersey "Country/Politan" picture a whole lot brighter!



The Staff of Country Music LIFE is proud of the magazine they publish, and they pledge that it shall always be a clean, wholesome magazine that you too can be proud to use and display in your home. That your children, your friends, or your clergyman may examine any issue of Country Music LIFE without embarrassment to anyone. Clean, honest reporting of the truth!

The Amazing *Mary Reeves*

Mary Reeves is a hard driving, well organized woman dedicated to the task of successfully administering the far-flung work and projects of the Jim Reeves Enterprises Inc., founded by her late husband, the internationally famous singer, Jim Reeves, and of perpetuating her late husband's name. For Mary this means the head-splitting responsibility of holding a network of enterprises together and at the same time of moving them all forward.

Any casual observer of Mary Reeves out of her busy office could easily be fooled. The mind somehow doesn't associate this dark haired, slender, still youthful bundle of pulchritude and soft voiced kindness with the top executive of a successful business who makes her own decisions and is not flustered when things don't immediately go her way. She knows the pitfalls that beset widows the world over and she's alert and realistic about the hard facts of business life.

That doesn't mean that Mary has lost any of her engaging femininity since the burdens of responsibility were suddenly thrust upon her when her husband, Jim Reeves, plunged to his death in an airplane accident July 31, 1964.

Mary has returned to wearing the bright colors she loves. She plays golf very creditably, and is a tremendous bowler. She favors Polynesian food. She likes gay company and when she throws one of her celebrated wiener roasts in the back yard of her home in nearby Madison, Tenn., all in the industry make it a point to be there. Mary meanwhile fondles her beautiful collie dog, Cheyenne, which she and Jim picked up several years ago when he played a Cheyenne, Wyoming engagement.

It's dedication—not an accident—by which Mary is able to keep the business going and is so successful at it.

For years before the tragic death of husband Jim, while he rose to world renown in the music field, Mary worked at his side and in the early days of his career, drove the car on night time hops between dates and sold tickets at the auditorium doors. She also kept the books. She knows how to say "no" and mean it and recognizes the need to scrutinize contracts like a lawyer, deferring hard decisions sometimes until she has slept on them. For while the world has generally been good to her, she asks herself repeatedly, "How would Jim want me to do it?"

As husband Jim's interests, like his fans, covered the world, Mary finds it necessary to do a lot of flying. Last summer she flew to Europe, visiting Stockholm where the international firms of RCA Victor were having their annual meeting attended by a lot of U.S. and European big shots. It was in Sweden, Norway and other North European countries where Jim Reeves



Mary Reeves pauses at the door of the bus which carries the Blue Boys, backing group of the late Jim Reeves, and now an RCA Victor act in their own right, to their many engagements over the country. The Blue Boys, Mary believes, are destined to become the No. 1 country band of the nation and under Jim Reeves Enterprises management, she intends to make them that way.



All the way from South Africa came the reporter to interview Mary Reeves, as Mary accompanies the chat with a hospitable cup of coffee. Her late husband, Jim Reeves, was a special favorite with the people of South Africa, and they never tired of hearing about him and still buy his records.

invariably enjoyed some of his most terrific record successes. Thence she visited Norway, Switzerland and other countries.

Jim Reeves Enterprises Inc. is a corporate umbrella embracing three music publishing firms — Tuckahoe, Acclaim and Open Road, and Mary Reeves Inc., a firm geared to perpetuate the Jim Reeves image via memorial album booklet sales and allied enterprises. Still another facet of the business is a

radio station in Henderson, Texas where Jim deejayed in his youth. There are also significant real estate holdings and other interests.

Prime segment of the Jim Reeves Enterprises getting Mary's attention today is the Blue Boys group who in 1965 produced two singles and an album which enjoyed marked success with RCA Victor. She envisions the Blue Boys band as becoming the top country band in the nation this year and lead vocalist Bud Logan as becoming a bright new star in his own right. Her confidence is reinforced by the highly successful engagement which the Blue Boys recently enjoyed in the Caribbean and where they were pressed to sign return engagement contracts.

Despite her far flung responsibilities, Mary has a skill of putting aside the general and getting down to the particular. She may have a bundle of work awaiting her in her office which she'll work on alone well into the night after the rest of her office force has gone home, but she'll nevertheless take time out to listen to a song offered one of her companies, the writer of which has been recommended to her as "promising." She'll also break into her busy schedule to help a deserving artist get started. She remembers quite well those days in the long ago when she and Jim were fellow students at the same high school down in Texas and if Jim hadn't got good advice and encouragement, there might have been no Reeves career.

"I'm trying to do it the way Jim would have wanted," she says.

Mary Reeves



Mary is often seen like this at the tape recorder in a corner of her office, listening to material which she hopes will be suitable for acceptance by one of her publishing companies. She does her own judging of such material, for Jim by whose side she worked for years, always said it was very important to listen to any and all material.



Get your guitar, your boots and your newest songs . . . it's the A&R man from the record company.



ROY BEE

There is a tall, good looking, guitar playing singer in Nashville who is "just around the corner" from breaking out into a national country music personality. Six foot six inches tall and two hundred and fifteen pounds of smiling, singing versatile entertainment. The person we are talking about is Roy Bee . . . one of Nashville's latest bids for stardom.

Roy is not a newcomer to country music - and is not lacking in experience. His rich mellow voice has graced shows with Marty Robbins, George Jones, Ray Price, Roy Drusky, Bill Anderson, Billy Walker, Ernest Ashworth, Carl and Pearl Butler, Ferlin Huskey, Pete Drake, Marion Worth, Mac Wiseman and many others - and he managed a full time country music radio station prior to becoming an entertainer.

From the land of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Shenandoa Valley, Roy entered this world September 19, 1937. His boyhood on the farm was quite uneventful, until at age twelve he "discovered" music and the guitar. He graduated from East Tennessee University in 1958 with a double major in Speech and

Business, and was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Infantry in 1959. In 1964 he came to Nashville as "Mr. D.J. U.S.A." on WSM.

This personable young man has all the qualifications to become a top country artist. The rich mellow voice we mentioned above can do equal justice to both ballads and rhythm tunes. The magnetism of his personality completely captivates his audience.

Roy has had two releases on the Big Country label - "Talking to Myself" b/w "This Old Town" and "The House Is Empty" b/w "Ladder of Success."

Yes, Roy Bee is "just around the corner" from the success that he not only desires, but so much deserves. He has served his "apprenticeship." His natural talent, poise and ability have put him well in the "professional" class.

His hopes and plans for the future are a contract with a large booking agency and a hope someday to become a regular member of the Grand Ole Opry. Watch for his name. You'll be hearing a lot of . . . Roy Bee.

"BABY"

...Wilma Burgess

By RUTH CHARON

Although the Cinderella story theme is old, it looks like another one is beginning for fair haired song stylist Wilma Burgess.

All in one short year, Wilma has joined one of Nashville's top talent agencies, her record "Baby" is a smash hit, she appeared on the ABC network Jimmy Dean Show, records on Decca, and has been nominated for the coveted "Grammy" award by NARAS. She is also busy on nationwide personal appearances.

NARAS is the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which maintains a tall status in the entertainment field. Among other nominees are The Beatles, Roger Miller, and the Tijuana Brass. Wilma is being nominated for "The Best Country and Western Vocal Performance by a Female" for "Baby," and for "The Best New Country and Western Artist."

Orlando, Florida is the birthplace of both this success story and Miss Burgess, on a sunny June 11. Her full name is Wilma Charlene Burgess, her middle name being a combination of her mother's and father's names, Arlene and Charles.

Her father and grandfather were in a successful business together and called Florida their home for many years. Wilma was such a favorite of her granddad's that she spent many hours cradled in the drawer of his desk, and her mother almost had to demand some time with her.

Although none of her family had been in show business, all of them played either piano or another instrument and her granddad was adept with about anything you could blow or strum. When brother Kenneth was born, he joined in the family music making.

Wilma told me, "I had wanted to sing since I was two years old. Years later, when Eddy Arnold came to town, I was introduced to Country Music. It was kind of like a prophecy; he dedicated his song 'That's How Much I Love You Baby,' to me."

Her appreciation of C/W grew as she sailed through high school and Stetson University (where she majored in Physical Education). The only actual encounter she had with a musical instrument was with a ukulele given to her by a friend, which she kept in her car for beaches and parties. She still did not do any organized musical work; just "fun type things." "I had no serious thoughts about entering the professional music field; it was a nice idea, but not even a dream of mine, as it has been for so many," she declared. "One thing I do remember, when I was a little girl, I sang on the stage with the great Hank Williams."

Wilma received the first full impact of Country Music when she came to Nashville in 1960 with two good friends, Ginny King and Lance Carpenter. Lance was a songwriter and they had come to Nashville to



push his songs. The first people they met in the business were Jan and Harlan Howard, who took them to Hal Smith at Pamper Music. Wilma sang Lance's songs in her own soulful style and Hal immediately signed them both as writers, with a management contract for Wilma.

Naturally, Wilma went to The Opry while in Nashville and was thrilled to meet her idol, Jim Reeves. She also met Charlie Lamb backstage, who had heard of her through the "grapevine" and wanted to hear her sing. She did, and made an impression that was to help her later.

When the three friends had returned to Orlando, Ginny quietly corresponded with Charlie Lamb without Wilma's knowledge concerning a career for Wilma. Finally, in July of 1962, Charlie telephoned to say that he had negotiated a contract for Wilma with the United Artists label. Happily she rushed off to Nashville, but still holding her hopes in restraint.

She cut her first record—"Confused" b/w "Something Tells Me," released in November. This first record didn't do much, but was big in some regional charts and particularly in Florida. This is usual for most artists and they struggle through three or four records before they are recognized. She made a trip to the WSM DJ Convention and learned more of the operations surrounding the music industry merry-go-round. The next disc she cut for the United Artists label was "Tell Him" b/w "The Exciters."

Wilma was still living in Orlando, and for nearly two years very little happened. But faith finally won out, and in June of 1964 Charlie called and said that Decca Records were interested. That month she recorded for them "Raining On My Pillow" b/w "This Time Tomorrow," A&R'd by Owen Bradley. Next



Wilma Burgess and Tom Egan get a laugh from a pre-show planning run-through on the Jimmy Dean Show.

Nashville's Wilma Burgess gets an ad lib buildup from Jimmy Dean.



Wilma Burgess sings "Baby," her hit record, as the TV tape rolls on.



came a cherished "big sound" session, with strings and all, "You Can't Stop My Heart From Breaking" b/w "Happy Fool." Wilma remembers, "This record started fine and made it to the low twenties on the national charts; then, all of a sudden . . . it stopped cold."

Owen Bradley was puzzled. He knew the potential in this girl with the enchanting voice and kept pushing. About this time Ray Grif was also pushing - his new song, "Baby," in the direction of Dottie West for recording, but was turned down. Mr. Bradley heard about it, liked the song and, now with Wilma's record of "Baby" riding the top of the national charts, she says of Owen Bradley, "He is such a master in the business. He can make just an idea sing, put it to musical notes and it all fits together with precision."

"My second big break was my signing with Hubert Long and his Stable of Stars. He believes in every artist he signs. This gives you the confidence you need . . . someone else is behind you! When he signs an act, he is staking his reputation on it. With Hubert

and Owen behind me . . . I am blessed to have people who can mold the talent God gave me," Wilma stated.

She is living now in Madison, Tennessee. She was choir director for her church in Orlando, but road tours prohibit that pleasure now. Wilma has several hobbies - golf, hunting, cooking, dancing and outdoor sports. An important pastime is collecting and playing records in spare moments to help build up her repertoire for shows.

As a golfer she played in the CMA Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament at the Bluegrass Country Club with Leona Atkins and Mary Reeves. They were the only girl players, and hope to enter again this year.

Wilma's appearances have included the ABC Network Jimmy Dean Show in January, 1966; a color movie "Howdy Las Vegas," with Ferlin Huskey, Jane Mansfield and Mamie Van Doren; the syndicated "American Swing-A-Round," MC'd by Chris Lane; local TV; the plush Rivoli Club in Chicago; and a tour of Germany is planned for September.

We do not yet know the results of the 15th NARAS Grammy Awards, but we do know that Wilma Burgess will continue to climb; she performs so well and has a voice that everyone loves. There is no other way to go but up.

COUNTRY MUSIC SHOWS IT'S HEART

By BEA AND RED WILCOX

Dateline ... WWVA Jamboree ... Wheeling, W. Va. ... January 15, 1966. On this date there assembled together in the Wheeling Downs Exposition Hall on Wheeling Island many dignitaries of the West Virginia and National Heart Associations, officials of the State and National Government of West Virginia, top country music artists, and the country music loving people of West Virginia and many surrounding states. Here was "proof positive" of the close bonds of country music and the people that thrive on it. It also showed what country music could do because this was a benefit show for the Heart Fund. While the local, state and national governments were well represented—this was not a "race" for politics. Quite the contrary! It was a show of support, of enjoyment, of congratulations, of doing good, and of sharing together—each group contributing to the success of the other.

The WWVA Jamboree is now in its 34th consecutive year. Because of the tremendous showings of country music fans at the Jamboree, it has become

necessary to move from the Rex Theater in Wheeling to the Wheeling Downs Exposition Hall on Wheeling Island which is much larger. This was the main theme of celebration. Jamboree Director, Lee Sutton, felt that it had been the country music loving public that made the Jamboree such a success. WWVA Radio agreed with this and said, "Let's make this moving day show a benefit show for the people themselves — something close to all their hearts—The Heart Association Fund." Now came word from Bakersfield, California . . . Mr. Country Music Showman himself, Buck Owens, wanted to participate in so worthy an endeavor and show his appreciation to the people of West Virginia and all over the United States for having voted him the No. 1 Country Male Singer of 1964 and 1965; and, also, because the heart fund is so near and dear to him personally. The officials of West Virginia said, "Country music is a vital heritage of this great state—we're proud of WWVA Radio; we're proud of Wheeling; and we're proud of our people. We also want to participate." The general public also showed their faith and support — the nearly 6,000





The Hon. Charles L. Ihlenfeld, Mayor of the City of Wheeling, welcomes the capacity crowd at the WWVA Jamboree Heart Fund benefit show which featured C/W star Buck Owens. This benefit reaped the largest single charity bonanza ever seen in the Ohio Valley, according to local Heart Fund chairman Wynn Sullivan.



Buck Owens and the Buckaroos in action at the fabulous WWVA Jamboree Heart Fund benefit show. The always popular Owens stopped the show time after time and his versatile aggregation gave ample proof why they have been noted the top C/W band in the nation.



tickets were sold out in advance fully one week before the show itself. Millions of other country music fans listened on their radios as the 50,000 watt fingers of WWVA Radio probed into nearly every state in the nation, bringing the message "country music is for the people" . . . and proving it!

Wheeling and the surrounding towns showed their support and congratulations in a stage bedecked with huge bouquets of flowers, with telegrams, and with personal messages. Mayor Ihlenfeld of Wheeling made his welcome speech full of warmth, sincerity, and gratitude, and officially proclaimed January 15 "Buck Owens Day" in the City of Wheeling. U.S. Senator Byrd of West Virginia sent a very stirring letter which was read over the air. U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph and West Virginia Senator Chester R. Hubbard were also on hand for the festivities again emphasizing how proud West Virginia is for her country music roots. A resident of Moundsville, W. Va., U.S. Congressman Arch A. Moore, Jr., was also introduced, and from the applause he received, a great many of his constituents are also country musically inclined.

Representing the whole state of West Virginia was her governor—Governor Hulett Smith. There could be no doubt now that West Virginia is a country music state, and very proud of it.

In order to have a show, one must have entertainers. The lineup of the artists matched the magnitude of "The Big Country." Many of the WWVA regulars performed, and standing backstage, one couldn't help but see the deep respect and admiration among all the entertainers as they watched one another perform. WWVA regulars included Jimmy Stephens and The New England Country Gentlemen, DJ artist Lee Moore, Mary Lou Turner, Kenny Biggs, Red Allen and the Yates Brothers, Roy Scott and the Country Harmony Boys, The Blue Ridge Quartet, Crazy Elmer, Darnell Miller, and Jack Campbell. Special guests included The Oxon Hill Cloggers, Johnny Paycheck, Hugh X. Lewis, Hardrock Gunter, Lloyd Green, The Compton Brothers, Dick Curless, and the inimitable Buck Owens and his Buckaroos — Buck dressed in a brand new black rhinestoned outfit and the Buckaroos in matching pink.

January had been Buck Owens month on WWVA Radio, and Buck and his "great guy" manager, Jack McFadden, were backstage telling everyone how proud they were for the honor. There was one more honor for Buck before the evening was over—Jamboree Director Lee Sutton presented Buck with a Golden Key — a symbol of "the key to our hearts" from the citizens of "The Big Country." In acceptance of the key, and in a very choked voice, Buck echoed the sentiments of everyone present when he said, "The Heart Fund is very close to all of us."

So it is, Buck, and an affair of the heart — equally close — is country music!

THE LAUGHABLE, LOVEABLE

ARCHIE CAMPBELL

By FRANK HARRIS

Many folks accuse Archie Campbell of being two-faced. His friends, though, insist that two is unrealistic. "Five or six-faced" is closer to the truth!

The controversy stems from the entertainer's versatility, however, and is really nothing more than an attempted assessment of a seemingly endless array of talent embodied in one individual.

Archie Campbell, the humorist, is a veritable institution among Country Music fans around the world. Adding to this lustre and legend are best seller RCA Victor records and packed houses for personal appearances in every state. Many call him "the Will Rogers of the Grand Ole Opry."

The unseen side, or at least the unsuspected side, of this famous and funny man is equally impressive.

Archie the sculptor, poet and painter is known essentially to intimates only. Few others know that Archie studied the creative arts for years prior to succumbing to the lure of stage lights. Many critics have openly praised his works, especially those in

Businessman-entertainer-artist Archie Campbell makes arrangements for Country Music LIFE to come along as his guest on an afternoon tour of a Nashville art gallery.



oil, and have criticized him only for not pursuing the talent further.

His capabilities transcend the aesthetic. Athletically, he's probably the most outstanding golfer in Nashville's music community and plays at every opportunity with his best friend Chet Atkins and his nephew Joe Campbell, a touring pro.

Chet Atkins reveals another side of his friend: "Archie's given more time and talent to philanthropy and worthy causes than almost anyone I know. In addition to being a humorist, he's a humanist in the most admirable sense."

Early this year, Archie spearheaded a statewide March of Dimes campaign covering Tennessee, from one end to the other, in a helicopter to raise money for those less fortunate.

Pastoral scenes of this type are actually his favorites, since they remind him of his boyhood in East Tennessee.





The early ingredients which combined to produce this mannerly man-about-town may be found in the roots of his boyhood on a farm in East Tennessee's Green County. He grew up there with one brother and two sisters, acquiring a love for the land and earthy humor that has never left him. He'll tell you today that painting landscapes, as he remembers them from his boyhood, is by far his favorite pastime. The influence is obvious in all his etchings.

His boyhood days were the kind which should have been committed to tape. They were hilarious, warm, happy ones of the Huck Finn-Tom Sawyer variety and he took to the books about like Huck and Tom did too, having a much greater preference, in those days, for frogs and pulling girl's pigtails.

He graduated from grammar school, however, as president of his six-member class and went on to complete the next four years of high school in one.

He matriculated to Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. at age 16 and studied art for the next few years.

"I actually got into show business by accident," he recalled during a recent Country Music LIFE

Here Archie attempts to serenade a rather non-committal soul. His efforts only aroused emotions in the gallery guards.

interview. "I tried making money with my paintings and started entertaining just for kicks, only to find out that there was more immediate money in the latter than in the former for me. So I grabbed my guitar and went to Knoxville."

The move to Knoxville was actually the beginning of Archie's career in the entertainment business. As a matter of fact, he and Roy Acuff started off together there.

A four-year Navy stint interrupted the Knoxville takeoff, but he returned upon discharge and resumed his career once again in earnest. This time, he had his own radio show and, as "Grandpappy," helped many a young entertainer get a foothold in the business. Frequent guests with "Grandpap" were Carl Smith and Chet Atkins.

"You'll never believe it," he joked, "but that was so long ago that Chet Atkins was appearing as a



Here Archie's a lover of beauty, but a bashful one . . .

fiddler!"

In 1958, Archie journeyed to Nashville for a Grand Ole Opry guest appearance and never returned to Knoxville! He stayed on, becoming a regular member, and his career has sky-rocketed ever since.

Today, the demands on his time are strictly super and actually leave him little time to pursue the arts as he would choose to. His Victor records sell at a neat clip. His latest single, "The Men In My Little Girl's Life" is a best seller. Several other singles, released within the past 12 months, are going well, and his most recent album, "Have A Laff On Me," is moving fast.

Between recording sessions, movie and TV guest shots and personal appearances around the country, Archie has little free time. When he's in Nashville, however, you can rest assured that each Saturday night will find him on stage, on time, at the Opry.

The time and energy this man devotes to creating beauty and happiness is incalculable. It's hardly limited to on-stage appearances!

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Be Sure To See...

By MARLENE ROTH

Doug Warren was born in Harrisburg, Arkansas, raised and educated in Truman, Ark. Although he was brought up on classical and pop music, he always loved country, western and gospel music. He moved to Nashville where he was able to go into, as Doug puts it, "the music of the people."

After a tour of duty with the army, Doug traveled the Midwestern states with various country groups, and booked out of Hot Springs, Ark. over KTHS.

He returned to Nashville where he worked with Noel Ball of WSIX-TV on the "Saturday Matinee." He did guest work over WSM-TV and made personal appearances in Tennessee and Kentucky. His first record release was in Nashville under the Crusade label and was a gospel record.

He later moved to Houston, Tex., where he appeared on various TV stations and had his own radio show over KATL. While in Houston he worked professionally in legitimate theater for Theatre, Inc. and The Playhouse Theatre. Also here, his second record was released through the Crusade label.

Doug came to California a short time ago and is making personal appearances in Southern California and working on a new record.

He has been appearing over Lee Ross' show Sunday afternoons from Walt's Club in South Gate, a show which is broadcast live over station KFOX. When you on the West Coast, be sure to see .. Doug Warren.

Doug Warren



Lonnie Meeks

By BONNIE DAILY

Right about now everyone seems to be watching the astronauts and listening for all the latest news about them—but many country music fans are watching a new star rising very rapidly in the record making world. This new star and country entertainer is Lonnie Meeks. He now makes his home near San Jose, Calif., but is Arkansas born and Missouri bred, and he really sings his heart out on our kind of songs.

Lonnie started writing songs at 15 and dreamed of becoming an entertainer someday himself, as he listened to the Grand Ole Opry and other C/W shows on his radio. He did not try to imitate any of the stars, but listened very closely to all the big timers, and came up with a wonderful style of his own. Some of the fans say he reminds them of the late Jim Reeves—Lonnie does have that tender touch to his voice that Jim had.

Some of his Cathay recordings are "Last Freight" b/w "Love Is a Stranger," "I've Seen the World" b/w "I Can't Let Your Memory Go," and has several new ones to be released in the near future. So keep your eyes and ears open for that good country sound by Lonnie Meeks.

Teddy & Doyle

THE WILBURN BROTHERS

By **GLENNIS MOLLOHAN**

If, at a country western show, you hear the emcee announce, "Here are two great young men who record on the Decca label and have had numerous recordings in the top ten," you can bet it will be that talented pair, Teddy and Doyle, the Wilburn Brothers!

Besides this, they have a business known as Sure-Fire Music, which includes all phases of music from rock 'n roll, popular, to good ole country music, which is the type of songs the Brothers sing.

To us on the outside of the entertainment world, success may seem to come easily to entertainers; but Teddy and Doyle Wilburn have found from practical experience that, as in any other business, it takes long, hard work. They remember depression days when they went out and sang to ease family finances at Christmas time, and today cannot sing a Christmas song without remembering the kindness of country audiences that Christmas years ago.



The Wilburn Brothers have appeared on the Grand Ole Opry and The Louisiana Hayride.

For relaxation, Teddy enjoys working out in health studios, golf, and bowling. Doyle is married to Decca recording artist, Margie Bowes, and gets his exercise playing with the apple of his eye, a young miss who answers to the name of Sharon Renae Wilburn. He likes to watch baseball on TV and go fishing.

The Wilburn Brothers' weekly television show is a syndicated hit, and the viewing area has increased to include Fort Smith, Ark., Charleston, S. C., Greenville, S. C., Tulsa, Okla., Waco, Tex., Lexington, Ky., Evansville, Ind., Richmond, Va., Amarillo, Tex., Austin, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, Tex., and Huntington, W. Va. The show is sponsored by the American Snuff Company and features the Decca Doll, Loretta Lynn, Harold Morrison and Don Helms.

The Brothers have founded the Wil-Helm Talent Agency in Nashville and handle bookings for such artists as Jean Shepard, Stringbean, Margie Bowes, Bobby Helms, Georgie Riddle, Warner Mack, Hank Locklin, Earl Scott, Don Helms, Osborne Brothers, and Loretta Lynn.

The Wilburn Brothers are veteran troupers and have recorded such hits as "The Knoxville Girl," "A Woman's Intuition," "Roll Muddy River." Their breezy, down-to-earth personal appearances across the U.S., Canada, Australia, the Carribean and Central America have captured the enthusiasm of millions. Their act is spontaneous, crackles with humor, and invariably touches off a rush of picture snapping, autograph-hungry fans. Folks who hear and meet the Wilburn Brothers go away with a smile on their lips, a song in their hearts, and a genuine affection for these clean-cut young men.

They performed in "Forty Acre Feud," television shows with Arthur Godfrey, American Bandstand, and Jubilee USA; in Australia with Roy Acuff's "Open House."

Billboard Magazine named them No. 1 Singing Group for the past three years, and their recording of "It's Another World" was No. 4 on the national charts. New albums released in February are "The Wilburn Brothers TV Show" with Ernest Tubb as guest, and "I'm Gonna Tie One On Tonight."

They will tour Germany this August, and we wish a world of luck to two great guys — the Wilburn Brothers!



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