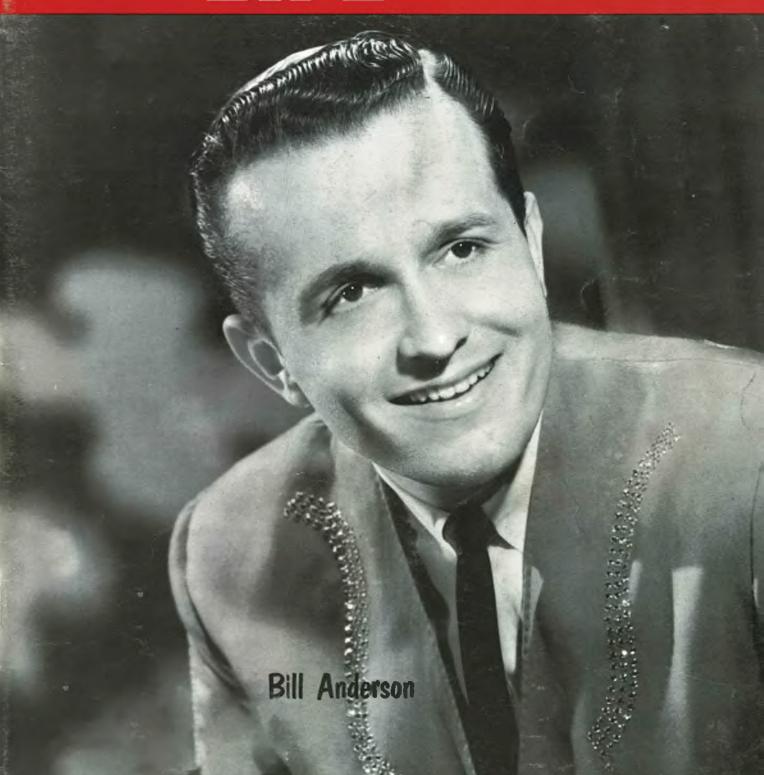
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MAY 1966

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ON THE COVER



BILL ANDERSON'S magnetic personality is captured by the photographer. His popularity continues to climb! 10 News

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Nashville Advertising Office: 425 Third National Bonk Building. Alpine 4-9494

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

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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.

TEN TOP TUNES

TIPS FROM THE



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-BONNIE GUITAR



THE TWELFTH OF NEVER
-SLIM WHITMAN



THE ONE ON THE RIGHT
IS ON THE LEFT
-JOHNNY CASH



I'VE BEEN A LONG TIME

LEAVIN'

-ROGER MILLER



RAINBOWS AND ROSES
-ROY DRUSKY



WOULD YOU HOLD IT AGAINST ME -DOTTIE WEST

Ву

Dottie West



I don't like Country Music - I love it, and if I didn't, I certainly wouldn't be where I am today.

Far, far too many people fail to realize that the life we artists lead isn't exactly a bed of roses. Things seem so easy and glamorous to the spectator when he sees us on stage or hears our records, that it's not hard to realize why they think our existence is strictly an "ivory tower" type. Believe me, the behind-the-scenes hard work would make a stevedore think twice before picking up a guitar.

Don't get me wrong. This is my profession and one that I'm proud to be a part of. Everything I'm associated with is Country Music oriented and I wouldn't change it for the world. But I'll be the first to advise any young artist, especially female, that it takes work, and then even more work, to achieve stardom.

In 1950 I won my first award. It was a simple little loving cup won in a talent contest in McMinnville, Tenn., my hometown. I sang "Jealous Heart" to an audience of about 250 folks and I'll never forget that particular experience as long as I live.

In 1964 I received the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) "Grammy" award as the outstanding female C/W singer of the year. The 14 years between those two awards seemed like a century of toil, heartbreak, happiness and joy. During that period, I acquired my greatest prizes—my family. My husband, Bill, whom many of you have seen or met at my personal appearances, is an excellent musician and my constant companion. My children seldom travel with me, but could if it were not for the demands of school, scouting, etc.

With a family to raise (and believe me I'm a great believer in family unity) and a career to pursue, my work has been pretty well cut out for me since I first set out in the music world.

The main point in underscoring these particular points is simply to reassure the casual aspirant that you must believe in, and yes, even love the goal you set out to achieve. Love supplements much of the

It also makes the victory that much sweeter.

sadness that accompanies an all-out pursuit.



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GUITARS AMPLIFIERS

editorial

What is the future of Country Music? In the past few months Country Music and the Country Music Sound has really started to "catch on," not only around our country, but all over the world.

We are constantly hearing and reading about the successful country music tours in England, Germany and all parts of Europe, to say nothing of the popularity that country music has achieved in the Far East.

Our country music stars have not only toured the service bases in the Far East, but have been booked for hundreds of personal appearances in Japan. The popularity of Japan's "Grand Ole Opry" speaks for itself. It is difficult for us to imagine the Oriental with a ten gallon hat and a guitar . . but the record speaks for itself!

More and more radio stations are changing to a country format. Bill Denny, president of Country Music Association, recently told me that this was happening so frequently that he had to practically "check with the Country Music Association daily to get the current count of all the country radio stations."

There are several reasons for this fantastic success and popularity. In this "coming of age," country music has modernized, and the older "hard country" appeal has been minimized.

The modern Country artist follows more of a "middle of the road" approach. He not only has talent as an entertainer but he has the vocal quality to back him up.

The modern country artist can sing a ballad, can sing in tune, and can do equally well with a rhythm or novelty song.

The new country music fan does not realize that some of the "hard country" tunes should be appreciated for their "story," or moral. Either it is pleasant to their ears, or it is not. If it not pleasant to the ear the new country music fan does not listen long enough to appreciate the rest of the song.

Based on these facts the answer seems obvious; the new modern country music entertainers are the

Continued on page 38

Westcoast NOTES

By JIM HARRIS

Somebody tell me where this month has gone. It seems that it was just yesterday that I was turning last month's column in to the typesetter. Well, anyway the clock is ticking so I better get on the ball.

Saturday night, April 2, KFOX in Long Beach held something which I believe was a first for Southern California. A gospel concert! Gospel music is a very important part of Country Music, and all of us here at CML are glad to see it get the "shot in the arm" that it deserves. You have to give Dick Schofield and all the guys at KFOX a real pat on the back. They are putting forth a tremendous effort to make Country Music bigger than it already is here in Southern California. The program included Bob Jones and the Songfellows Quartet, The singing Barnett Family from San Diego, and long time favorite singer and composer Stuart Hamblen, who is just back from missionary work in China. And last, but not least ... everybody's favorite—Red Foley.

Speaking of shows, Monday night, April 4, the KFOX DJ's were again hosts to a star-studded lineup of talent! The scene was "George's Round-up," a Country Music night club in Long Beach. The occasion was a benefit show for ailing Quincy Snodgrass, Country comedian from California. Among the stars there were Freddic Hart, Eddie Dean, Wes Buchanan, Johnny Bond, Buddy Cagle, Bob Morris, Faye Hardin, Skeets McDonald, Don Bowman, and there were more, but space does not permit me to name them all. I will say this, though — all these performers worked for FREE and for only one reason — "to help ole Buddy Quincy."

Local boy Wes Buchanan has a new record out called "Old Habits Are Hard To Break." It was written by another local boy—Gene Davis. Wes says that "all he wants is to see it reach the top 20." I don't think he has a thing to worry about!

Another of our local boys has a big one going for him; it's called "Tonight I'm Comin' Home" by Buddy Cagle. Buddy was long overdue for a hit and it looks like this is it.

Continued on page 38

Midwest

NOTES

By MARY ANN COOPER

The Midwestern Federation of Country Music held its first convention in Madison, Wisconsin the weekend of April 2, under direction of DJ Bill McMahon. Understand from Dottie West, who was there for a while, and Dial recording artist Jack Barlow, that everything went just great. This is an event I hope continues—until we can attend some year!

Jack recently left his deejay post at WXCL, Peoria, to set out as a full time singer. He is being booked by the Bob Neal Agency of Nashville. Another "Jack" should be sitting in Barlow's chair at WXCL by the time you read this—our ole friend, Jack Reno. Incidently, this station is now on the air 24 hours a day full-time Country!

Saw Little Jenny Jamison a couple of weeks ago. She was just thrilled over some news-her KSTL (St. Louis) daily DJ show is to be extended to cover four hours. Wednesday's programs are to be taped and sent to Viet Nam. Jenny told us that a portion of these programs will feature interviews with families of some of our soldier boys. Congratulations, Jen! By the way, Dot Records has just re-released a couple of songs Jenny had out formerly with other labels, "If I Can Stay Away Long Enough" and "All In The Name Of Love."

Hey, if you tuned in WJJD on April 1, but didn't catch the "April Fool's" game they were playing, you must have wondered who all those gal disc jocks were?? They were the wives of the regular DJ's.

Marvin L. Hoerner recently added a new publication to his ever growing line—this one is for the fan clubs and is called "Wizard Records Fan Club Report." If you are interested in receiving it, drop Marve a line at P.O. Box 99, Amboy, Illinois.

A happy note of congratulations to WXCL's John Klinger and wife Marlene on the birth of a baby boy, Timmie. A sad note to friends of Mrs. Virginia Protsman—she has been quite ill recently and has spent some time in the hospital. If you would care to send

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Convict's Angel

b/w

Lonesome Lovin' Diesel Drivin' Man

Lovely Penny Jay, who recently signed with Sur-Speed Records, is one of Nashville's prominent song-writers with such hits to her credit as "Don't Let Me Cross Over," "Widow Maker" and "Just Over The Line." Pretty Penny has just recorded what looks like another hit on SUR-SPEED entitled "CONVICTS ANGEL" b/w "LONESOME LOVIN" DIESEL DRIVIN MAN. Penny Jay, a freelance writer, has been performing for many years and her new release is now an the market. DJs are invited to write for promotional copies to:

SUR-SPEED RECORDS

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Southeast NOTES

By RED WILCOX

Bill Harrell, Buck Ryan, Smitty Irwin and Stoney Edwards-"The Virginians"-well-known "blue grass" act in the area, were scheduled to play their regular Saturday night stand at the Brunswick, Md., Fire Department with Guy Lombardo April 11. These boys have a very busy schedule-Sunset Park, Pa. May 1; The Grand Theater in Williamstown, N.J. May 4; American Legion Hall in Hughesville, Md. May 6; for the Strasberg, Va. Fire Department at Front Royal, Va. May 13; and American Legion Park, Culpeper, Va. May 15. In addition, they still do a weekly TV show Thursday nights over WSVA-TV in Harrisburg.

The Stringdusters accompanied by Johnny Dollar journeyed to the WWVA Jamboree for the Big George Jones show on March 19. Other guests were Sheb Wooley and Ben Colder, Claude Gray, and Kenny Robberts.

This reporter is proud to have written the album liner notes for Warner Mack's new album-"The Country sound of Warner Mack." Warner's new hit "Talkin" To The Wall" was chosen hit of the week recently at WKCW, Warrenton, Va. Somehow Warner found out about it and called the radio station while the record was on the turn-table. His conversation was carried over the airwaves via the "bleeper."

Steel guitarist Bill Christian - "Cannonball" has recently moved to Ohio (Akron I believe) to accept a better paying position. We know that Ohioans will enjoy his fine steel work there as much as we will miss it here. Also making a move is pretty Pat McKinney. Pat left March 26 for Nashville where she will appear with Pete Drake. She is also facing an audition with a major label. Our best wishes are with

The Oxon Hill Cloggers square dance team recently purchased a "Flexie" bus and went for a tour in Illinois. Heard they "went over big" out there.

The next WBMD Baltimore spectacular will be at the Baltimore Civic Center June 4 and will star Johnny Cash, Sonny James, June Carter, The Statler Brothers, Carl Smith, Ferlin Husky and The Duke of Paducah. Tickets can be ordered now from Dept. M, WBMD.

American Legion Park in Culpeper, Va. opens officially May 15 with a big blue grass show starring Jim & Jesse, Sonny & Bob Osborn, and the Virginians -so reports Lou Franklin and Ted Swenton, WXRA DJ's who will be running the park this summer. May 22 will star Carl & Pearl Butler and Carl Smith. The park will be closed May 29. June 5 will be Faron Young, Jean Shepard, Norma Jean and The Duke of Paducah. On June 12 the park will feature George Morgan, Jimmy Dickens and Jan Howard.

Sunset Park, Pa. plans to open on April 24 with Continued on page 38

lashville



NOTES



By PAUL AND RUTH CHARON

"Welcome to Music City USA" is steadily becoming "Welcome to Filmland USA." Almost each day here marks the beginning or ending of a movie production, Ron Ormand, producer of "Forty Acre Feud," has moved his family to Nashville and is deep in his current cinema "Girl From Tobacco Row." The stars include Tex Ritter, Gordon Terry, Rachel Roman, Snake Richards (Earl Sinks), Rita Fave, Ralph Emery, Walter Haynes, Ed Livingston, Howard White and Dean Turner. These film stories are of interest to the record world because they have all starred Country Music recording artists. This film contains full dialogue and first showing will be in Louisville, Ky. June 1.

Marty Robbins is backing his own movie, "The Road To Nashville" filmed at WSIX Studios beginning April 11. If you can judge from his new TV series "The Drifter," the movie should be terrific.

Skeeter Davis was in Atlanta during April to work in a movie made there.

The production of Preston Collins and Vincent Youmans Jr. in full color-"Music City USA" had its premiere in Charlotte, N.C. and is being shown in hundreds of movie houses throughout Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and the South. Hillous Buttrum from that film is studying dialogue and directing methods for a new movie starring a host of top Hollywood favorites. The story is still in the secrecy stage, but will be reported in the next issue of COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE.

Audrey Williams and her son, Hank Ir., are sporting western outfits even more glamorous than those stolen from their Cadillac in Houston last month, according to Buddy Lee, their manager and booking agent.

In the mad rush of show business, entertainers are hard put to find time for the nicities of etiquette, but Lorene Mann of RCA Victor is one who makes time. She phoned this reporter the other day to express her appreciation for stories about her in CML. Orchids to her and all the gracious people we have in this business.

Thanks also go to Curtis Keene and Verne Horne's manager, Fred Kaufman, for furnishing film and help at the party for Nancy Tennant. The affair was hosted by the Music City Women's Association and Scotty Moore at his recording studios. (Remember him guitarist for Elvis Presley for so long.) This goingaway celebration for Nancy was prompted by her leaving Nashville to open a branch office for Epic Records in Hollywood. Out-of-town guests were Bobby Vinton, Lou of the Statler Brothers, and Kitty

Continued on page 38

Canadian NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

Ivan McNab, the folk and western singer from Ituna, Sask., returned from his trip to Hollywood in early March after spending a week filming a segment of the "Bonanza" TV series. Ivan, who is a Cree Indian, will play the role of an Indian chief's son. The trip was first prize in a variety contest as part of Saskatchewan's 60th anniversary celebration in 1965. The show will probably be seen in May.

Featured artists at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto for the next two months are: Hal Willis, April 11-16; Jean Shepard, April 18-23; Marvin Rainwater, April 25-30. Dates for May are: Merle Travis, 2-7; Jim Edward Brown, 9-14; and Bobby Helms, 16-21. The Johnny Cash show has been touring Ontario, including Kitchener, London and Toronto. They played to packed houses during the entire tour. They played the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto March 17-19. This is the first time a Country Music show has played the O'Keefe and the three shows were a complete sellout. Loretta Lynn was on hand for two shows and she will probably make a return visit later. The Johnny Cash Show includes the Statler Brothers, June Carter and Tex Ritter.

Ray Grift, one of the finest songwriters in the Country Music field, formerly of Calgary, Alberta, has recently moved to Nashville where he has put his songwriting abilities to good use. He has written many of today's hit songs including Wilma Burgess' "Baby." He also wrote Sheb Wooley's latest song "I'll Leave The Singing To The Bluebirds," which Sheb picked up when he went through Calgary on a Western Canada tour before Ray's move to Nashville.

Arc Records has announced the installation of the first four-track recording system in Canada-to cost about \$100,00. This is a big break for Canadian C/W artists.

One of the most popular afternoon programs in Western Canada is the Ron Andrews Country Music show out of CKCK Regina, Sask., from 1:00 to 4:00. The show holds 60% of the total listening audience of CKCK and is based on a Nashville Country Sound

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Master guitarist Chet Atkins pauses during a recent recording session to display the latest in tonsorial elegance—other dandies sporting similar chinwear are Grady Martin and Buddy Harmon.



Marion Worth is seen brushing up on the fine points of stage make-up and hair styling with Jo Coulter (left)—a skill so important to feminine performers. Marion is completely redesigning her stage show and has engaged the services of choreographer director Gene Nash, whose considerable talent created the new image for the successful Leroy Vandyke show. Gene will undertake the choreography for Marion's vocals; not that any high-flying dance steps will be involved,

but as any artist knows, every small movement on stage has a bearing on whether or not a performer "goes over."

Vet promoter Little Richie Johnson has just filed in the political field for County Commissioner of Valencia County, second largest county in the State of New Mexico. He has been strong in politics for the past few years. Back in the music field, Little Richie has new records by Del Reeves, Pete Drake, Kenny Vern, Curtis Leach and others. DJ's needing copies write Little Richie, Box 3, Belen, N. Mex.

"McHale's Navy" will definitely not be shown on TV next fall, according to C/W entertainer Johnny Wright, father of Bobby Wright who plays the part of Willie on the show. Bobby, currently in Hollywood, intends to remain there for the next few weeks in order to try out for a part in "The Virginian" series.

The latest syndicated Country Music show — "The Stonemans" — will premier the first week in May and will feature the popular Stoneman Family entertainment unit, according to Gene Goforth, general manager of Jet Star TV Productions. The show will be carried by 18 markets in the Southeast and will be of 30 minutes duration and in black and white. Plans are for converting to color at a later date. Tapings are being made at Nashville's WSIX-TV studios under the production of Bayron Binkley and direction of Dallas Thomas. Bob Jennings will be show's announcer.

Archie Campbell, Dottie West and Justin Tubb are joining forces to work this summer's outdoor fair season in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Roy Acuff and his Smokey Mountain Boys, Dottie West, Bobby Bare and Minnie Pearl will appear in the first all color taping of National Life's Grand Ole Opry show May 12 and 13, according to Bill Williams, PR man of WSM Radio & TV. The 30 minute, video taped TV show is now carried in 30 markets. Subsequent shootings will occur each following Thursday and Friday in May and June.

Vernon Glen and Marvin Hoerner narrowly escaped serious injury when their car skidded and crashed during a driving rain storm in Detroit. They were on their way to the Masonic Temple, after Glen received a rush call to replace Skeeter Davis when she was taken ill. Glen and Hoerner climbed from the wreck, hailed a cab, and Glen walked on stage as the curtain was going up. This was the first presentation of 'Grand Jubilee,' a new Detroit originated country music show. Glen is busy filling personal appearances, resulting from popularity of his latest release, 'Looks Like I'm Gonna Fight Again.' He has recently appeared in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan spots, and on 'The Kay Arnold Show' in Shelbyville, Tenn. He is scheduled for fair dates in Illinois and Indiana this summer.

Country Music Association directors, trustees of the Country Music Foundation, and friends of country music gathered in Nashville last week to witness the beginning construction of the new Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to be built in Music City USA. Governor Frank G. Clement and Country Music Assn. President Bill Denny led a name-signing ceremony which sealed the names of those present in a time capsule placed in the foundation of the building. Signing the two foot scroll were trustees of the Country Music Foundation and other community leaders in the drive to raise \$350,000 for construction of the unique sight and sound facility. Senator Ross Bass of Tenn., Mayor Beverly Briley of Nashville, and Mrs. Richard Fulton assisted in troweling the capsule into wet cement. Members of the Country Music industry have already contributed \$310,000 toward construction. A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a check for \$12,500 from the State of Tennessee by Gov. Clement to Andrew Benedict, chairman of the fundraising committee. He told the audience, "There will be another one just like it after the fiscal year beginning July 1." Bill Denny, president of the Country Music Association, described the "living-working" museum which is scheduled to be completed October 1. "It is only fitting," said Denny, "that a permanent facility to honor our Country Music greats be built here in Nashville-the Country Music capital of the world." Mayor Briley commented on Nashville's pride "in making it possible" for the museum and Hall of Fame to be built in Tony Rose Park, which will be easily accessible to tourists and fans. Mrs. Fulton represented her husband, United States representative from Tennessee, who is working on plans to build a U.S. post office station in Nashville near the museum which will enable mail to be received and dispatched with the Music City USA stamp. Dozens of Country Music celebrities were on hand for the ceremonies. Music was furnished by the Opry Almanac Band from WSM-TV, Nashville.

Roger Miller topped the biggest week in his career in March when he obtained his own 30-minute weekly NBC-TV colorcast, which launches its 30-week cycle Monday, September 12 at 8:30 p.m. (EDST). The week began auspiciously when Smash Records received certification of Miller's fourth Gold Record award for his album, "Dang Me/Chug-A-Lug." The audit certified \$1,000,000 in sales for the LP. Fellow members of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences broke Miller's own all-time record of five awards in one year, when he was topper in six different categories of the creative achievements, voted by members of the industry to outstanding contributors to artist and repertoire. Miller's song "King of the Road" and his Smash record thereof won five awards, while his album "The Return of Roger Miller" took the sixth Grammy award, breaking his previous record of 1965.



Tex Ritter (left), president of the Country Music Association, accepts a substantial check from Earl Petrin, president of Buena Vista Productions, Phoenix, Ariz. Money will go to the CMA sustaining fund. Buena Vista has promised a check to CMA every year. Tex Ritter was in Phoenix for a large C/W show staged in the new Coliseum.



A pleasantly surprised Duke of Paducah (left) contemplates his "turning 65" government benefits as outlined by Nashville's Social Security District Manager Joseph P. Walsh. The Country Comedian was one of the first in line to sign up for his hospital and doctor bill insurance (Medicare).

For the fifth time in four years, Rex Allen is signed to appear at the Flame Room in Minneapolis for the week beginning June 13.



A happy Carl and Pearl Butler are shown returning from four fabulous weeks of personal appearances in Germany, Italy and France. The popular pair entertained standing-room-only crowds of American service men during their European stay.



Frank Jones, Columbia Records A&R man, makes presentation of his company's "Golden Guitar" award to Little Jimmy Dickens for his hit "May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose." The count as of December 1965 was 250,000 sales.

Del Reeves and Bill Anderson played the Lincoln Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. March 5 to a record crowd of 3,500.



"Mr. Guitar" himself-Chet Atkins-appeared recently on the Wilburn Brothers show, rendering his award-winning version of "Yaketty Axe." It was a memorable event and one of the greatest in the history of the Wilburn Brothers. Their show has increased its audience through the addition of Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas markets. The show continues to carry as regulars Loretta Lynn, Harold Morrison and the band. Future guests scheduled are George Hamilton IV, Stringbean, Moon Mulligan, Lefty Frizzell and Warner Mack.

Filming of a full-length technicolor movie tentatively titled "The Road To Nashville" commenced in April. It will feature Marty Robbins and Pat Buttram and will be produced by Robbins and Robert Patrick of Hollywood.

Claude McBride and Dewey Groom have joined forces to found a booking agency known as "Longhorn Attractions." Since opening their doors they have booked Janet McBride and Vern Stovall for 30 days in California and Oregon, with Steve Stebbins for the month of May, and June finds them on the Louisiana Hayride, Panther Hall in Ft. Worth, and two weeks in Kansas and Nebraska.

"Singing Cherokee" reports that he is now with station KCBN in Sparks, Nevada, and will appreciate receiving records at that station.



K-Ark Record's Dr. Paul Moore (left) recently took a significant step up entertainment's ladder by signing an exclusive booking contract with Nashville agency executive Bob Neal. The former middle-Tennessee dentist plans to book out on road shows by the end of March.

"Jayne Mansfield Country & Western Spectacular" is set to tour major Southern cities in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and North and South Carolina May 6 through June 4. Artists Carl Smith, Porter Wagoner and Hank Snow will each head a third of the show's 29-day run. Regulars working the full tour will be Sonny James and The Southern Gentlemen, Johnny Paycheck and The Little Darlins, Tommy Cash and Jim Nesbitt. Don Bowman and Del Reeves are expected to join the musical entourage during its last week. Overall production of the musical extravaganzas will be handled by Bob Weems of Atlanta's Alkahest Attractions Inc. Miss Mansfield recently completed her first Country Music-oriented movie, "Las Vegas Hillbillys" with Ferlin Husky and Don Bowman.

New album by Johnny Wright will feature "Bird of Paradise," "Waiting In Your Welfare Line," "Tiger Woman," "Giddyup Go," "What Kinda Deal Is This" and "Keep The Flag Flying." Kitty Wells' new album will contain "I Want To Go With You," "Nobody But A Fool," "You're Driving Me Out Of My Mind," "Too Many Rivers," "Meanwhile Down At Joe's" and "A Woman Half My Age."



Bob Leftridge (top) joined The Homesteaders, replacing Jack Boles, now operating as a single act. Leftridge's part with the group will be lead vocalist and ad lib comedian. The Missouri native moved to Nashville six weeks ago to join the group, received his draft notice the next day and an honorable medical discharge five weeks later before making his second, and final, relocation in Nashville. He joins Jerry Rivers (center) and Frank Evans.

"Will the real 'Queen of the Road' please stand up?" was the question posed to WWVA's Rosemarie Van Camp, along with two "fibbing" contestants on CBS-TV's popular afternoon show, "To Tell The Truth." Rosemarie had been invited by the producers of the show to appear on the program and was in New York March 22 for the taping, Rosemarie is WWVA's only girl disc jockey and does a nightly 15 minute stint for truck drivers. As "Queen of the Road," she plays country music and truck driving songs, talks to the "gear jammers" in their own lingo, passing along trucking information and safety tips, with an occasional word of advice to stop in or call her sponsor Valley Truck Sales of Wheeling, Her fan mail comes from the entire Eastern seaboard, all of New England, several Canadian provinces. She serves as WWVA's Continuity Director and Public Service Editor, which includes writing all commercials and scripts. She has also done feature stories and documentaries for the WWVA News Dept., as well as "hard" news. A native of Bellaire, Ohio, Rosemarie is married to Charles Van Camp and the mother of three children-Tim, Kathy and Peter.



Nashville's newest member of the recording community is ex-Californian Merle Travis (left)-singer, writer and guitar stylist of no little repute in the C/W world. Welcoming him at the city limits is Jack B. Andrews of Moeller Talent Inc. the agency from which Travis will be booked exclusively.

* * * * *

"Margie Bowes doesn't need any advice on attracting admiring glances. She'll be concentrating on specialized stage makeup. Standard street makeup, the kind many of the gals in Show Business still wear tends to wash out under bright lights, making the performer look like a ghost." So says Jo Coulter, who is tutoring the lovely stage, TV and film star on stage makeup. This spring Margie will be wearing another kind of cosmetic—screen makeup. She'll be co-starring with Del Reeves in a new country film, "Gold Guitar." Miss Bowes will begin work on the movie after an engagement in Louisiana and an 8-day German tour. Her newest disc is "Look Who's Lonely."

MGM Records will issue a new single this week featuring the voice of the late Hank Williams in one of his classics, "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." The original Williams track has been augmented and updated with strings, vocal choir and a modern Nashville piano sound. The entire concept was conceived and supervised by A&R producer Jim Vienneau, arranged by Bill McElhiney. Flip side of the new disc is another Williams classic, "You Win Again."

* * * * *

Edna Gayle Meador was "No Billed" in the kitchen knife slaying of song writer and artist, Curtis Leach. Curtis was slashed on the upper portion of his right leg December 14, 1965, severing an artery. He died before reaching the hospital. The Grand Jury "No Billed" Mrs. Meador on the grounds of no eye witness and her claim of self defense. Edna Gayle is still in Dallas awaiting extradition back to Pomona, Calif. where she will face forgery, second offense, and other charges.

"You know Country Music has really arrived when the scalpers move in," says Marshall Rowland, head honcho at Jacksonville, Fla.'s full-time country station WOIK. Rowland, who will soon celebrate his station's power rise from 10 to 50 KWs, was surprised when big hundred seat blocks of tickets were sold for the station's sixth annual spectacular. The night of the show an overflow crowd of II,000 enjoyed Marty Robbins, Porter Wagoner, George Hamilton IV, Bobby Helms and Harold Morrison, while outside ticket scalpers who had lapped up blocks of tickets, were hawking three tickets for as high as \$10. Rowland speculates that although ticket scalpers aren't to be commended, their presence attests to the growing popularity of Country Music in the area. Hubert Long reported an \$18,000 gross from the capacity crowd.

Jan Howard swears her husband Harlan gets his song ideas while out fishing. Jan is repeating the story more often than usual these days as she watches the progress of her new single which Harlan allegedly penned in the solitude of a fishing trip. It's a playing-around-on-your-mate theme titled "Evil on Your Mind."

Skeeter Davis, who made such a hit in Japan during a recent oriental stint refuses to believe the cause of her recent illness was a souvenier from the land of the rising sun. Skeeter, who currently is packaging a summer theme LP, "Sunglasses," just won a bout with the Asian flu. She prefers to believe the flu was a Chinese strain, not a Tokyo virus. At any rate, she has recovered fully and is looking forward to a string of spring bookings.

The fourth annual Northwestern U.S. Country Music Jamboree has been set for July 22 and 23 of this year at Worland, Wyo. This unique "sage-brush" talent show is attracting national interest and representatives from a number of record companies have expressed their hope of attending. Smilin' Nick Shrode of Socorro, N. Mex. has been asked to emcee the show again this year. \$800 in cash prizes is being offered to artists who have not yet had commercial record releases. Last year recording contracts were offered one female and three male vocalists, and eight original songs were contracted and have been since recorded and nationally promoted. The affair is hosted by the Worland Chamber of Commerce and the Wyoming Music Enterprises. Information may be obtained by writing Ray Pendergraft, Box 104, Worland, Wyo. 82401.

Kitty Wells of Decca Records has been voted "Best Female Seller" of the year in the C/W category at this year's annual NARM (Rack Jobber) convention at Miami, Fla. Montainebleu Hotel March 9. The award singled Kitty out, along with male C/W vocalist Roger Miller, as the year's top single and album seller for all labels. Barbra Streisand and Elvis Presley were accorded similar laurels in the "pop" category.

Contracts were signed last month for the third consecutive seasonal run of "Carl Smith's Country Music Hall" on Canadian TV, according to joint announcement by W. E. Moeller and Peter Perrin, producer of the show. It will be shown in color this fall—a "first" for a network C/W show. Filming will begin this month. It is carried on the CTV network during prime time Monday night coast-to-coast—is shown in some of the British Commonwealth countries and in Germany—and may be syndicated nationally in the U.S. in the future. Regular performers on the 30-minute weekly are Carl Smith, The Maple Creek Boys, with Tommy Hill, Johnny Sibert and Dianne Lee. Guests include both American and Canadian artists.

The news department of WWVA Radio is conducting a laboratory course in the preparation, editing, writing and broadcasting of news, in cooperation with nearby Bethany College of Bethany, W. Va. At present, two Bethany students-20-year-old Howard Hoffman, junior, and Curt Miller, 22-year-old senior-are serving internships in the "Big Country" news department. They are expected to perform all the duties of a radio news editor nine hours a week from February through May, for which they will receive three college credits. "WWVA Radio is providing a significant co-curricular educational experience through these intemships," said Journalism Professor James W. Carty Jr. "The students learn by doing as they rewrite press releases and call local news sources to develop stories and features." Plans are to continue the program next year.

Radio Station WWOK, Charlotte, N.C. has named Grand Ole Opry star Bill Anderson as the first member of their Country Music Hall of Fame, Membership is limited to those who, through their talent and effort, have made significant contributions to Country Music. This is the second such honor bestowed upon Anderson within a month—the first being the erection of a Hall of Fame display in his name at the University of Georgia.

The Louisiana Hayride, formerly operated on a monthly basis, is planning a weekly show every Saturday night through June, July and August, according to Frank Page of KWKH Radio in Shreveport, La.

A 5-day Country Music tour featuring Jimmy Dean, Little Jimmy Dickens and Max Sanders is set to open May 18 in Albuquerque, N. M. and play consecutive dates in Denver, Omaha, Wichita and Kansas City.

In response to the growing impact of Country Music on Nashville, one of the Music City's best known nightspots has turned to a straight Country format for it's evening entertainment. "The Black Poodle," located in Nashville's famed Printer's Alley is booking country talent exclusively for the night-on-the-town crowd.



Johnny Russell was signed to an exclusive writers contract with Sure-Fire Music Co. in November of 1964 and has been such a success that this firm has appointed him general manager. He has had songs recorded by The Beatles ("Act Naturally"), Patty Page, Hank Locklin, Loretta Lynn, Bobby Helms, Earl Scott, Dino-Desi & Billy, Burl Ives, George Hamilton IV, Wilburn Brothers, Jean Shepard and Homer & Jethro—to name a few.

Ruby Wright (daughter of Kitty Wells and Johnny Wright) has signed a new recording contract with Epic Records. Her sessions will be co-produced by A&R man Billy Sherrill and Buddy Killen, Tree Publishing.



Little Jimmy Dickens and his Columbia Records "Golden Guitar" award atop a new Lincoln Continental recently purchased with revenue from his hit "May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose."

THE SAGA OF THE

SINGING BRAKEMAN

MMMY RODBERS

By TEXAS JIM COOPER

On May 26, the Country Music world will observe the 33rd anniversary of the passing of one of its most influential artists — the remarkable Jimmie Rodgers (1897-1933).

America's Blue Yodeler, famous—even legendary—as the Father of Country Music, began life as James Charles Rodgers in Meridian, Mississippi, the son of Aaron Rodgers, a wifeless railroad foreman. Jimmie grew up with railroad life, loved it, and even spent 14 happy years working in it.

Negro railroad helpers taught Jimmie the fundamentals of playing the banjo, ukelele and guitar, and he took it from there. Jimmie whiled away his free time singing and strumming, never suspecting that he might someday make music professionally. (He was quite modest.) Then he met Carrie Cecil Williamson, a comely Meridian lass whom he courted with serenades. In 1920 Carrie and Jimmie were married, and with her encouragement, Jimmie continued with his music until he became the expert's expert in yodeling and picking. Although he little realized it at the time, Jimmie was becoming the master craftsman of early Country Music as his singing and song writing abilities emerged.

Inflicted with a raging case of tuberculosis, Rodgers left the exciting but rigorous railroad life to try his hand at entertaining, which he felt would be less taxing, physically. He showed promise, but at first met only failure as a stage and radio singer. His was a new brand of music and slow to be accepted. Times were hard. The Rodgers' first daughter, June Rebecca, died young. Poverty and starvation were a nightmarish threat and at times, a reality. If not for the constant compassion of his devoted wife and his own sturdy outlook, Jimmie Rodgers would have probably given up. Her faith and his determination kept them going.

Chancing to meet Ralph Peer, RCA Victor's field recording director, Jimmie secured an on-the-spot audition in August 1927. Peer was pleased with 30-year old Rodgers' musical delivery and arranged for Jimmie to record his own composition, "The Soldier's Sweetheart," for which the Singing Brakeman was given an initial \$20 bill. Within the year, a historic million copies were sold and Jimmie Rodgers stepped into fame and fortune.

Success now brought the Mississippi Blue Yodeler an annual income of one million dollars. His records revolutionized music. Rodgers was begged to become a vaudeville star and he did later make one film of



his life, "The Singing Brakeman." People, especially his own country folk, idolized him. Remembering his experience with hard times, he worked worthy benefits with new friends like the cowboy-humorist, Will Rogers. In short, Jimmie Rodgers was soon a popular national institution.

Near Kerrville, Texas, Rodgers built a \$50,000 mansion which he called "Blue Yodeler's Paradise." Once, about 1931, while driving home to Kerrville, he pulled off the side of the road to watch a glorious Texas sun go down. Turning to his attentive wife, Rodgers spoke up, "And some folks try to say there's no God!"

"Blue Yodeler's Paradise" still stands. So does his cherished San Antonio cottage, occupied now by his wonderful daughter Carrie Anita Rodgers Court and her teenage son, Jimmie Dale Court. Jimmie Rodgers loved Texas—and Texas loved him. The Lone Star State so revered his presence that it considered him a native son and named him an Honorary Texas Ranger Captain. The City of San Antonio appointed him a bona fide special police officer, authorizing him to stop violators of the law (he did, too!) and equipped his Cadillac with a very real siren.



To show their affection for the Mississippi Blue Yodeler and America's Singing Brakeman, many fans and friends dedicated the above monument to Jimmie Rodgers on May 26, 1953. The monument is located on Hwy. 11 & 80 (Tom Bailey's Drive) in Meridian, Miss. Photo courtesy of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce.

In his material success, Jimmie Rodgers never lost touch with mankind, that firm bond he had with "everyday" people. He made millions and sensitive to other people's problems, gave most of it away, proudly, willingly.

But his time in this world was not long, for TB was having its way. In the last month of his life, Jimmie had his final recording session in New York, where he cut the last dozen selections, completing a legacy of 112 recorded songs. On May 26, 36-year-old Jimmie Rodgers, the musical soul of America, passed away.

As he would have wanted it, Jimmie Rodgers came home by train. A lonesome, chilling whistle pierced the silence of saddened Meridian as the funeral train bore the Singing Brakeman's body to the city of his birth.

In the days to come, his family played his records often, as did his many friends and fans. While the family listened to Rodgers' voice on record, another devotee listened...listened intently. Scratching on the screen door, Mickey, Jimmie's Boston bulldog, begged to be let in. He had heard his master's voice and yearned to be with him. Ironically, on the RCA Victor label is boldly emblazoned the likeness of a small dog sitting before the phonograph and the heart-tugging caption, "His Master's Voice."

Buried in Meridian, Jimmie Rodgers was honored 20 years later with the dedication of a monument for his grave, a monument extolling his achievements. Forty thousand fans, friends and loved ones attended the ceremony. In the years to follow thousands annually thronged to Meridian to pay homage to Rodgers on the anniversaries of his death. Then, as an additional tribute to the singer who played "upon the heartstrings of millions the world over," the Country Music Association membership elected him in 1961 to be the first representative of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

His work has been the inspiration of many Country singers - Gene Autry, Grandpa Jones, Eddy Arnold, Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb, Johnny Cash and Lefty Frizzell. It was Carrie Rodger's belief that Ernest



The officers of the Jimmie Rodgers Society posed in front of the memorial in May 1959. Lest to right: P. Wheeler, vice president; Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers (now deceased); and Jim Evans, president.

Tubb most closely resembled the artistry of her husband and presented him with Jimmie's favorite guitar. Tubb's own career, launched with her assistance, started with the release of two songs about Rodgers.

Referring to Jimmy Rodgers, Ernest Tubb stated: "He was the greatest of them all. He paved the way for all of us. He was the forerunner of Country Music singers throughout the nation, throughout the world. His records, after 33 years, outsell some of the artists of today, and I think this speaks for itself."

What has been the impact of his records on Country Music—and music in general? RCA Victor's vice president, Steve Sholes, has stated: "What Jimmie Rodgers did for Country Music, particularly in view of today's market, I think could best be covered by the fact that Jimmie was the first Country artist to focus national attention on himself and his music via phonograph records. In fact, no one prior to Jimmie Rodgers was able to accomplish this fear with or without phonograph records."

More than any other artist, Jimmie Rodgers made the music industry a profitable enterprise. It would be hard to estimate the number of records sold — or the number of singers who have entered the field professionally — because of Jimmie Rodgers. Because

Continued on page 39

JOHNNY CASH TO STAR IN JIMMIE RODGERS MOVIE?



By LEO LERICHE

Back on September 2, 1965 this writer received a four page personal letter written in long hand by the top notch Country Music recording artist, Johnny Cash. This communique contained information that I have been waiting to hear for the past 20 years or more.

This letter, sent from Casitas Springs, California, revealed the fact that a first class movie will be made about the life of Jimmie Rodgers.

"The Singing Brakeman" or "America's Blue Yodeler" (two of Rodgers' most popular stage billings) will be portrayed by none other than Johnny Cash.

That Jimmie Rodgers was the greatest of them all was revealed on November 3, 1961 when the Legendary Yodeler of the Blues was installed as the first member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Prior to her death, Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers loaned to Johnny Cash books, albums, pictures, letters, newspaper clippings, and even royalty statements received by Jimmie. Johnny has met with every authority on the life of this man he could find. He has talked with many people—some who barely knew Jimmie—and some who were very close to him.

Johnny feels now that he knows Jimmie Rodgers almost better than he knows himself. He wants to learn and be as much like Rodgers as he can for the forthcoming film — character, temperament and overall personality, his likes, dislikes, pet peeves — and even his enemies, if Jimmie ever had any. He requested, in his letter, any clippings, letters, etc. that I might have pertaining to Jimmie Rodgers and they have been forwarded—personal letters from en-

tertainers like Gene Autry, Gobel Reeves (The Texas Drifter, Hoyt "Slim" Bryant, Jimmie Davis (former Governor of Louisiana), Martin Guitar Manufacturer, and others too numerous to mention. Those letters reveal many things and should be of help to Johnny.

Robert Shelton, of the New York Times and contributor to several magazines, will write the screen play for the Jimmie Rodgers story. Production is to take place somewhere in the South where the story began.

Hollywood's best producers and directors, as well as the finest cameramen, will be hired to film the story in color and cinamascope. Cost is estimated at one million dollars. Robert Shelton is one of the most qualified of C/W writers and is bound to come up with a most interesting, and factual, life story.

I have visited Jimmie Rodgers Memorials in Meridian, Miss., have seen his statue, his grave and the only movie he played in—a ten minute short titled "The Singing Brakeman," a Columbia Victor short starring Jimmie Rodgers screened in 1929 in Camden, N. J. Jimmie sang three numbers in this movie.

I am a member of the Jimmie Rodgers fan society and have had considerable correspondence with fans discussing the merits of this all time favorite; there is no question about the tremendous popularity of the "Father of Country Music."

I'm constantly on the lookout for information and data on Jimmie Rodgers, and a little over a year ago received a letter containing a newspaper story with pictures on Cliff Carlisle from the very attractive Mrs. Jean Powers, president of the Esco Hankins fan club (of which I am publicity director). Mrs. Powers is a well informed C/W music fan and Esco Hankins is a fast rising C/W entertainer who sounds like a young Roy Acuff. Anyone wishing to join this fast growing fan club can do so by contacting Jean c/o the Esco Hankins Fan Club listed elsewhere in this publication.

Back to the Cliff Carlisle story. Cliff, as you old-timers will recall, sang a lot of Jimmie Rodgers songs back in the 30's. He ranked right behind the "Blue Yodeler" and Gene Autry in those days—he now makes his home in Lexington, Ky.—and I have already made two trips to the city in the heart of the Bluegrass to swap tales about Jimmie Rodgers with people who knew him well. Ernest Tubb, years ago, had an ambition to play the lead in a Rodgers film, but unfortunately, it never became a reality. That is another reason that C/W admirers of the Mississippi born artist will be pleased to learn that Johnny Cash is going to do something about it.

It is amazing that one person, who parted from this earth 33 years ago come May 26; can still ride the high waves of popularity throughout the years.

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The Golden Girl of Song

PENNY JAY

By GALE MARTIN

Many things have been said about Penny Jay, all of them good and all of them true. Yet many more could and should be said. As one fan remarked, "A book could be written about all the good things Penny has done and all the people she's helped." Another said, "When Penny steps out on the stage she lives every song she sings; she has that rare ability of capturing an audience and holding them in the palm of her hand." Everyone goes away from a Penny Jay show feeling warm and happy and a little richer because of her sincerity. Penny doesn't just sing for her supper; she sings because she loves to, and she wants her audiences to love it too. Somehow, this desire communicates itself to the people and they do love her performances. They want her back, night after night.

Penny started pickin' and singing at 10, appearing with her mother at church affairs in her home town—Knoxville, Tenn. Her mother wanted Penny to make a career of this music, but for Penny it wasn't enough. Her ambitions were too vast to be confined to any one type of music—she wanted to try all of the different varieties that country music had to offer, and even added a few of her own. Once launched on a musical career, nothing could hold her down. Even a close brush with death in an automobile accident couldn't stop her. For ten months she stayed in the hospital following the accident in 1953. Doctors thought she would never be able to use her arm again, but Penny kept right on fighting and thank heavens, she recovered.

Penny spent three years touring military bases all over the world with the USO. She enjoyed these tours as much as our service boys enjoyed the entertainment from home. She considers the experience and understanding gained through these tours a main factor in the success that followed.

She became nationally known in the field of song writing in 1963 when she won the BMI Country and Western Achievements Award for writing the Number One song of the year, recorded by Carl and Pearl Butler. "Don't Let Me Cross Over" was recorded by at least 25 artists on singles and albums, and made the Butlers famous. It also completely established Penny Jay as a very talented songwriter. Penny Jay wrote and recorded the answer to "Don't Let Me Cross Over," called "Just Over The Line" and it was played heavily all over the U.S. and in many other countries.



Many Penny Jay songs are heard each day, recorded by various country music artists. Jimmy Martin recorded "I'd Rather Have America" and "Widow Maker;" Skeeter Davis recorded "Set Him Free;" and Esco Hankins, Lois Johnson and Vince Roberts all have Penny Jay songs on records. Penny records her own compositions on the Forest label.

After appearing for years as vocalist with other big name groups, she decided to organize her own band during the summer of 1965. "The Sonjays" have enjoyed immediate success, having been held over at almost every engagement, and being a versatile group, are able to please each member of their audience.

Penny makes her home in Nashville with husband Bill Moyers and daughter Sherry Jay. When not on the road with The Sonjays, she is very much a housewife, an occupation she enjoys as much as music. She makes her own beautiful stage costumes and likes to collect anything that's musical. She now has her own publishing company, Sonjay Music.

California's Favorite "Country" Son....

BILLY MIZE



By HELEN GOGLIN

It was approximately 3 o'clock on a Sunday morning in late January when the long white Lincoln departed from Long Beach, California. It carried two people, a man and woman, bound for the city of Bakersfield, some 125 miles north.

Rain was heavy in the air, and now and then a shower would engulf the travelers.

As they neared the mountain range that separates Los Angeles from Bakersfield, the rain grew more intense. With increased altitude it became a steady downpour.

"If it's raining in Bakersfield too, we're liable to run into trouble at the summit," remarked Billy Mize to his companion. "At 5,000 feet they often have to close the road when the snow gets too deep to pass."

Close the road, in these days of snow tires and rapid snow removal techniques — in an area where it would not remain on the ground more than a few hours anyway? To someone from the Midwest, where there is snow for at least three months every year, it seemed impossible.

Billy explained. "In Southern California there is virtually no need for snow tires or chains, so very few motorists have any. When they are needed, it kinda leaves many people helpless."

Sure enough, nearing the summit, snowflakes as big as peaches and as thick as flies beat against the windshield, and the fluffy white mass soon covered the road. More and more cars were forced to pull over to the side as they could go no further.

The Lincoln kept going, passing everything in sight. When it started passing the huge trucks standing immobile at the side of the road, and when it spun in a half circle, it was nothing but sheer determination that made the driver pull it out of the spin and keep moving toward Bakersfield.

The logical question is—what was the big attraction in Bakersfield anyway, that made it so imperative to hurry back?

Billy Mize was rushing home to keep a promise. He had given his word that he would participate in the March of Dimes telethon that morning. He was due



to go on the air at 7:00 a.m.

When you meet Billy Mize, one of the first things you learn about him is that when he makes a promise, HE KEEPS IT.

Dependability is only one of the nice things about Billy Mize. Personality is a big thing too. If you've ever seen Billy's television show ("Melody Ranch" on KTLA in Los Angeles), or been out to meet him at the Foothill Club in Long Beach on a Friday or Saturday night, you don't need to be told what a charming fellow he is. If that experience is still in the future for you, you have a real treat to look forward to.

Billy and Martha live on a ranch near Bakersfield with their four children, Karen, Billy Jr., Marji and Robbie. They raise quarter horses as a sideline—add that to Billy's booming career with Columbia Records ("Terrible Tangled Web," "You Don't Have Very Far To Go," "Walking My Fool," and "Don't Let The Blues Make You Bad"); writing hit songs; hosting Melody Ranch, and drawing SRO crowds to the Foothill—you find an extremely busy man.

Never too busy, of course, to have a friendly word for anyone who needs him—that's another of the things I admire about Billy.

If I sound like a Billy Mize fan sometimes, I guess you'd have to say that's just what I am. I'm proud to know him, and I urge you to look him up sometime. You'll really enjoy the experience.



Billy answers some of his fan mail....



Putting some new material on tape for other artists



Writing another hit song. . . .



Billy, wife Martha, Marji (4), and Robbie (1).



Martha says this pic is a classic.



Billy displays "Taffy," his pride and joy.

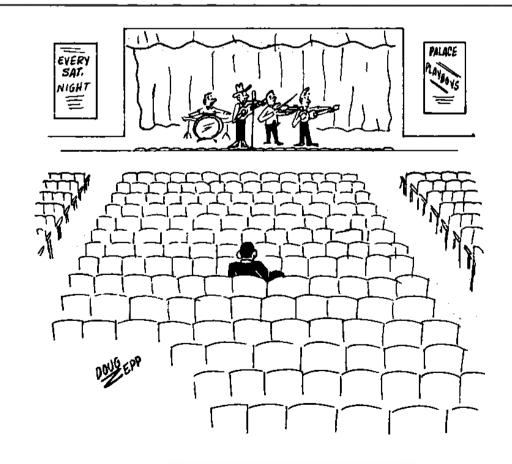


Billy grins at two of his favorite gals - wife Martha and 4-year-old daughter Marji.



- WEBB PIERCE
 ♦♦ KITTY WELLS
 ♦♦ CARL SMITH
 ♦♦ MINNIE PEARL
- HANK SNOW ◆◆ FARON YOUNG ◆◆ JIMMY DICKENS ◆◆ PORTER WAGONER ◆
- LEFTY FRIZZELL ◆ → JOHNNY WRIGHT ◆ ◆ DOTTIE WEST ◆ ◆ RED SOVINE ◆
- ◆ CARL AND PEARL BUTLER
 ◆ BILLY WALKER
 ◆ NORMA JEAN
- GEORGE MORGAN → MERLE TRAVIS → ARCHIE CAMPBELL → JUSTIN TUBB →
- WAYLON JENNINGS
 ◆◆ BILL PHILLIPS
 ◆◆ WILLIS BROTHERS
 ◆◆ CARL PERKINS
- MAC WISEMAN ◆◆ GRANDPA JONES ◆◆ RUBY WRIGHT ◆◆ THE HOMESTEADERS ◆
- DUKE OF PADUCAH → DOLORES SMILEY → MAX POWELL → JUANITA ROSE →
- THE HARDEN TRIO → GEORGE RIDDLE → ERNIE ASHWORTH → JOHNNY DARRELL →
 ★+ THE STONEY MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS ★+

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THE TRAVELIN' TEXAN



BILLY WALKER

By FRANK HARRIS

"Hi Frank, glad to see you. This is my youngest daughter, Julie, and my wife, Boots. Boots tells everybody that Nancy Sinatra named her latest song after her!"

With this note of joviality, our monthly COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE feature story got underway in Nashville's beautiful Shelby Park. Boots had thoughtfully prepared a delightful fried chicken dinner for the occasion, and between the food, pleasant company and balmy Spring day in Tennessee, we managed to meet Billy Walker and two of the five lovely ladies in his life.

They don't call Billy "The Travelin' Texan" for nothing. In his 37 years, the highly-popular Monument recording artist has traveled just about everywhere and done just about all there is to do in his climb up the ladder of Country Music success.

He's of the old school of thought that believes in genuine hard work as a lever to pry open the door of success. Perhaps it's because nobody ever "gave" him anything that he casts such a critical eye toward the trend among youth of wanting something for nothing.

"When people ask me how I made it and then how they can, my answer is a simple and concise one—just WORK, WORK, WORK and never give up. I worked in this business for over 15 years before I ever had a hit record, but never once did I ever consider quitting. The present trend is for a beginning entertainer to work hard for a year, maybe two and then go back home in despair to work the rest of his life with a bitter opinion of Country Music. I can't go along with that attitude, Frank."

Billy was born in Ralls, Texas, and wanted to be a Country Music entertainer from the time he was old enough to dream and wish and harbor ambitions. He never went through the "fireman, cowboy or policeman" stage so familiar to most youngsters. With him it was Country Music, or nothing.

His early ambitions were encouraged when (age 15) he won first prize in a Clovis, N. Mex. amateur talent contest. The prize included an appearance on a Clovis radio program and the teenager's radio debut was such a successful one that he became a show regular throughout his high school years.

After graduation from high school, his career began in earnest. He formed his own band and began touring the Southwest.

When Billy was 19 he was working a regular radio show out of Waco with "The Travelin' Texans" when he met a pretty, black-haired girl who was to become Mrs. Billy Walker.

Boots interceded: "I had the wildest crush on Billy imaginable! When we married, after about a year of dating, we had only \$1.47 between us! That was our stake in life, but it really didn't seem to matter too much then. Billy was actually doing the radio show for nothing during the daytime, and the group played at a local nightclub just for tips each evening.

"We managed somehow, but now that I think back over it, I don't see how."

Billy landed a job with "The Big D Jamboree" in Dallas the next year and things began to look up for the struggling two some. He roars with laughter when recalling his role with "Big D" and what he did early in his career to make ends meet in Country Music.

"I used to come on stage wearing a mask," he explained, "and imitate top singers of the day such as Hank Williams, Eddy Arnold and George Morgan. I was billed as 'The Masked Singer of Folk Songs' and the idea was for the audience to try and guess my real identity. I got \$10 for each appearance."

"The thing was such a success that, after six months, we had a big unveiling (or rather unmasking) and people came from miles around to see who the masked singer really was."

This comic entre into Country Music had its good points. As a result of this enterprising spirit, Billy received a contract with Capitol Records and from that point on was billed as Billy Walker and not as "The Masked Singer."

Billy spent 1½ years on the Capitol label, during which time he relocated to Wichita Falls where he had a network radio Country Music show sponsored by Hadacol

In 1951 he switched record labels, this time casting his lot with Columbia Records. An immediate hit resulted - "Anything Your Heart Desires" - which landed him a job as a regular on "The Louisiana Hayride" in Shreveport.

"The stay with the 'Hayride' was quite an experience," he recalled. "They had one heckuva talent lineup there. I guess it was sort of a proving grounds for the Grand Ole Opry."

This wasn't an idle speculation on Billy's part. Some of his fellow entertainers on the 'Hayride' were Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Red Sovine, Webb Pierce, Johnny and Jack, Kitty Wells and Slim Whitman.

He recalls hiring at that time Elvis, Scotty Moore and Bill Black to work for him on the road at \$100 per

"Thank You For Calling" was a Walker hit in 1954 and it earned him his first guest appearance on the Opry. It also caught the attention of TV network executives in Springfield, Mo. where he was offered a job on the prestigious "Ozark Jubilee." There he worked with Red Foley and a man who was to become his personal booking agent years later, Lucky Moeller.

After three years of what he calls "a long dry spell," his next hit record resulted, "On My Mind Again." This, like its 1954 predecessor, earned him a second Opry guest appearance, but still no offer to be a regular.

The hard work (and we suspect heartache) con-



"Our picnics are real swinging affairs," puns Billy.

tinued. He made a third Opry appearance in 1958 and during this period left Springfield for Ft. Worth where he attempted to make a livelihood traveling with his own dance band, a rather large one similar to the Bob Wills and Hank Thompson types popular at that time.

The big dance band idea just simply didn't work out for Walker, but a hit record in 1959, "Forever," came to his rescue.

"I guess you'd say 'Forever' was my saving grace. I really don't know what I'd have done during that period if it hadn't come along. It got me my fourth guest appearance on the Opry and four months after the guest shot, they asked me to be a regular. Needless to say, I jumped at the chance and moved to Nashville lock, stock and barrel at the first opportunity."

The move to Nashville was just the shot in the arm Billy's career needed. Hits came in quick succession beginning in 1961 with "Funny How Time Slips Away." Others, following at approximately yearly intervals, were: "Charlie's Shoes," "Circumstances," "Heart Be Careful" and "Willie The Weeper."

In 1964 Billy experimented with combining Country Music and a basic Mexican beat when he cut Kay Arnold's "Cross The Brazos" single. It was tremendously successful and he more or less incorporated the Mexican flavor in his next three singles, "If It Pleases You," "Come A Little Bit Closer" and "Matamoros." All three were runaway hits.



A family fishing foray finds Poppa pulling in a prize.



Here a patient Billy does what all good lathers should do - gives his daughter a strong shoulder to lean on.

Early this year, he surprised the record world by changing from the Columbia label to Monument.

"I'm quite excited about being associated with Monument. They're a relatively young label but they're aggressive and especially anxious to get into the Country Music market in a big way."

Billy Walker



Simulating his daughter's adventuresome spirit, "The Travelin' Texan" counters a Humpty-Dumpty ending.

His first release with Monument, "The Old French Quarter," has the makings of a hit!

Aside from his exciting recording life, Billy has found time to appear in two movies, head up Matamoros Music Inc. (which he owns), make numerous TV appearances, write a book about the Country Music business in collaboration with his good friend Vic Lewis, and successfully meet the demands of his beautiful wife and four striking daughters.

Home, to "The Travelin' Texan," and his family is now permanently Nashville. Their attractive brick home is situated in an area where nearby neighbors are Dottie West, Jimmy Dickens and Johnny Wright and Kitty Wells.

We asked Billy Walker many questions about his life in Country Music, about his ambitions and frustrations (which he undoubtedly has had). But one thing we never asked him, since we saw no need to, is where in the world he ever got his nickname.

We'd say it's pretty obvious, wouldn't you?



Four-year-old Julie makes her favorite Country Music star assist with a pause that refreshes.

"Finding Romance" is a natural follow-up to a lovely Spring picnic in Tennessee. Here Billy and Boots follow the sign's directive.





PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

"Music City, U.S.A."

By BEA & RED WILCOX

LIGHTS! CAMERAS! ACTION!

What magical dreams these three words inspire. Thousands of Country Music fans visiting Nashville, Tennessee, during disc jockey convention week were to hear these words reiterated time and time again as the crew and stars of Gemini Pictures' Eastman Kodak color movie—"Music City, U.S.A.," visited "live" sets all around town for their authentic filming.

"Music City, U.S.A." is the story of the disc jockey convention held in Nashville as an annual affair in conjunction with WSM Radio's birthday celebration of The Grand Ole Opry. Through the eyes of T. Tommy (Cutrer), one of the country's most noted DJ's and now owner of his own radio station in Mississippi, the movie goer is afforded an opportunity to see Nashville—Country Music capitol of the world—as it appears to the people who live there, work there, face defeat and despair there, or become stars there. It is also the world that can be seen by the overnight visitor in town on Saturday night for The Grand Ole Opry.

T. Tommy returns to Nashville for the disc jockey convention, being met at the airport by Webb Pierce and Hillious Buttram. Webb's "Million Dollar Car," the Pontiac convertible designed for him by Nudie of California and inlaid with hundreds of silver dollars on hand-tooled leather, is prominently displayed in the movie. Webb also takes us on a guided tour of his new \$175,000 home which has a guitar shaped swimming pool as part of the appointments. This is the luxurious side of Music City, U.S.A. that can be earned by talent only. The Webb Pierce fan will truly be enthusiastic over his renditions of hit songs "Memory No. 1" and "Who Do I Think I Am."

For a disc jockey convention one must have disc jockeys. In one scene a busload of them is visited by T. Tommy in front of the Tennessee State Capitol Building which is just across the "square" from the "focal-point hotel" of the convention. A disc jockey is also a very versatile person and this is emphasized by top DJ Bob Jennings acting as Emcee during the filming of a TV show.

Nashville is famous for the Nashville Sound. Everyone has heard it on today's bright new records, but "Music City, U.S.A." shows how it all comes about. Through the eyes of T. Tommy we are taken on a guided tour first of Sho-Bud Guitars where owner Shor Jackson shows the very latest instruments capable of producing this sound. In the Columbia Recording Studios the very able band leader, Hillious Buttram, shows exactly what these instruments were made for as he and his group "back up" Wayne Haas, star of the Arthur Smith Show, on his very first recording. As Wayne "cuts" this record, with background by the Calloway Singers, a demonstration of exactly what happens during a recording session is shown from one process to the next. Russel Sims of Sims Records was the A&R man and this record will be released on his label. The final result, of course, is record merchandising. What better retail outlet to visit than the famous Ernest Tubb Record Shop!

A particular facet of the Nashville Sound is the extended use of extra microphones during "a session." In order to obtain this "true sound," dubs were "cut" before the actual filmings in the Columbia Studios. These reporters were invited as special guests of Warner Mack to watch and listen as these dubs were being made. The true professionalism of the Country Music artist was very evident as stars like Loretta Lynn, Dave Dudley, Lorene Mann and Justin Tubb. Warner Mack, Jimmy Newman, and the Osborn Brothers obtained an excellent recording on only the second or third try. An example-Harry Compton of the Compton Brothers was asked to sing tenor with Warner Mack on "Sittin' On A Rock." They had never sang together before. After only 15 minutes of rehearsal out in the hall, they came into the studio and recorded on only the second try.

The next day, these reporters were also the guests of Warner Mack as the filming for the Record World Awards was simulated. These awards had been presented actually by Bob Austin, president of trade magazine Record World, onstage at the Grand Ole Opry House immediately after the WSM Disc Jockey Breakfast. The ingenuity of producers Preston Collins



The camera focuses on Dave Dudley in shooting a scene for "Music City, U.S.A."

and James Dennett went into play as they began to renovate a cob-webbed corner into the beautiful setting seen in the movie. Stage curtains were put up; the floor was painted (and what a time they had preventing the wet paint from being tracked); a large banner proclaiming Record World was put in place on the curtains, and a microphone added. But something was still missing. Into a heap of props Preston Collins dug until he came up with a couple of discarded "hula hoops." He merely stuck them one into another, had the end result sprayed gold and suspended from the ceiling. Beautiful!

The Nashville artists, some unaccustomed to performing before movie cameras, were somewhat nervous. "Makeup" fixed them up with a little powder and paint and then stuck tissues into collars to protect clothing.

Then the work began — and it could be tricky! As Bob Austin made his presentation over a live mike, the artist accepted the award and then stepped up to the mike to sing. At this point the mike was cut off and the artist sang to the dub made previously. It was remarkable, but not one single artist had to redo the scene because they were even a fraction of a second off in synchronization. Lovely Miss Loretta Lynn caused quite a few chuckles as she went through her song once for rehearsal and light placement. Loretta is one of the stars of the Wilburn Brothers' TV shows and this was quite evident, as she "belted her song out again" in what she thought was another run-

through. As soon as she finished it she was told she could leave the set for the day. Immediately she exclaimed, "You mean you got it—the red light wasn't on the camera! Golly, I never even had a chance to be nervous." Loretta was presented her award for No. 1 Female Vocalist of The Year. The Wilburn Brothers were presented their award as No. 1 Vocal Group. Warner Mack received a special "Country Artist of The Year" award; and Lorene Mann was presented a special award as vocalist and songwriter.

Since the personal appearances of the Nashville artists are literally "their bread and butter," "Music City, U.S.A." dwells upon this facet of the industry also. The "Sundown Club" is not a permanent fixture of Nashville, being part of the world of movie imagination, but scenes filmed there are relived every night in clubs all over the country. It is the very same Charlie Louvin and Band that thrills audiences from coast to coast in "Anytown, U.S.A." Dave Dudley appears also in this simulated "spectacular" as do Autry Inman, Jimmy 'C' Newman, Gordon Terry, and Jean Shepard.

Another side of the Country Music business is the ever-increasing televising. Some artists have their own syndicated shows; other artists have "spots" on these shows; and others are guests on a one time only basis. In a generalization of all of these, with Bob Jennings emceeing, we are again invited behind the scenes—this time to see how these shows are put together, directed, and filmed. Again we see rugged Dave Dudley step up to the microphone to sing. Lorene Mann and Justin Tubb sing their famous "Hurry,



Webb Pierce and Hillious Buttram in Webb's "Million Dollar car" meet T. Tommy at the Nashville airport.



Lorene Mann and T. Tommy appear to be discussing an album by the Osborne Brothers at Ernest Tubb's Record Shop in Nashville.



The ever-popular Wilbum Bros., Teddy and Doyle, on stage during filming of a nightclub scene for the movie, "Music City U.S.A."



Another scene from the movie' Music City U.S.A.' This one has Wayne Haas cutting a record in Columbia Studios.

Mr. Peters." Excellent song renditions are also turned in by Loretta Lynn, Teddy and Doyle Wilburn, Sonny and Bob Osborn, and Jimmy Newman.

Music City, U.S.A. is a very friendly, helpful town. It is alternately serious and fun-loving. On the serious side, Nashville is proud of its Country Music ancestry. A good example is Roy Acuff's "Museum of Music." T. Tommy and the busload of deejays we encountered earlier in front of the Capitol are shown through the Museum by Bashful Brother Oswald. On the fun-loving side, we have WENO A GO-GO. These reporters were returning to the hotel one evening when we saw a large crowd on the sidewalk and out into the street. Traffic was at a complete standstill and excited policemen were trying to get it unsnarled — but were very pleasant about it all. In some manner that we haven't yet understood, a stage had been erected on a parking lot corner high above the street. Here Hil-





Loretta Lynn thanks everyone responsible for her award as No. I Female Vocalist during the awards scenes.



One of the many scenes depicting the "Record World Awards." Harry Compton singing with Warner Mack.



The Osborn Brothers sing for "filming" of a television show for the movie.



Hillious Buttram and his all stars "pickin-and-a grinnin" for the final scene in the movie.

lious Buttram and his Music City All Stars were "a pickin' and a grinnin'" along with Sudie Calloway and the Calloway Singers. Up there also was DJ Don Howser. This could only be Nashville during disc jockey convention!

Spend "a week's vacation in Nashville" right in your own home town theater. The movie is now in release.



THE DUCE OF PADUCAH[®]





By FRANK HARRIS

On May 12 The Duke of Paducah celebrates simultaneously his 65th birthday and 44th anniversary as an active Country Music entertainer.

Like everybody else in the United States, he qualifies for social security benefits and a life of lelative leisure. Unlike everybody else, however, May 12 will just be another active work day for this dynamic stage personality who jokingly jests that he's "64 going on 35."

In all probability, he'll celebrate May 12 by visiting Moeller Talent Inc., his booking agency, and getting a rundown on impending engagements for the next 30 days. That'll be followed by a speech at a downtown Civic organization, an afternoon of fishing, an evening of celebration and a night of preparing to hit the road the next day for two or three quick engagements that are probably 300 miles apart.

The point is — this fabulous young gentleman is going stronger than ever. He's still regaling grand-children of people who used to gather around the community radio and hear his jokes and comments about how "these shoes are killing me!"

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE renders a special salute to the Duke as one of Country Music's most popular and permanently entrenched personalities.

We trust that our readers will enjoy the following pictorial tribute of his show business life to date - pictures, incidentally, which are a part of The Duke's personal collection and loaned to COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE especially for this edition.



On May 12 Duke'll eat birthday cake and retire, but only for the night. He'll be up at crow's call the next morning hard at work on whatever has to be done. This summer he'll head up "The Duke of Paducah" road show which will play the carnival and outdoor circuit in the Midwest. It will feature Duke, Red Sovine, Dolores Smiley and Gary Van & band.



Duke actively starred on The Grand Ole Opry until 1947, when he left ("with no bard feelings whatsoever") to pursue a burgeoning chicken farm and traveling circus be'd acquired. Here he is supported by Pee Wee King (far right) and group, circa 1940.



We'll let you try to guess this photograph's vintage. Above a non-trusting Minnie Pearl questions Duke's car-starting capabilities. That dashing chap behind the wheel is Roy Acuss.



During the depression, Schlitz Brewery Co. bired entertainers to sell Schlitz malt so that people could make home brew. Here a dushing Duke sells the suds.



Way back in the lean days, before Benny Ford was The Duke of Paducah and before Gene Autry was THE Gene Autry, Duke (or "Benny" as he was known then) was master of ceremonies and banjoist for Autry's traveling group. Duke is shown with banjo and Gene stands at the center of the group.

While with the Autry group, Duke did a comedy act with Frankie Marvin, pictured above. When Gene, Smiley Burnette and Frankie headed for the movies, they begged the Duke to go with them, but he couldn't see himself as a cowboy. He'd had too much experience with the bull.





The Duke takes a singing lesson from his old friend Red Foley.



Always the athletic type (despite the fact that his belmet's on backwards), here Duke tries his hand at carrying the ball for Father Flannagan's team at Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska.



Above, the "buttle of the bulge" is being fought by Duke and fellow entertainer Zeke Clements.



The sprawling acreage of Duke's multi-columned Middle Tennessee bome is a fitting setting for a man of national prominence.



Duke's egg venture, like the circus, was a "Stimulating Experience." A few years ago he gradually began to liquidate his assets in order to devote his full time and attention to Country Music comedy.



The country gentleman above hardly resembles the country bumpkin featured herein ... but they are one and the same. Here Duke takes a hunting break with Tony Bill.



Kenny

yernon

Kenny was born July 19, 1940 on a farm in Jackson, Tennessee. He started on his first guitar at age five, played the fiddle at 14, the banjo at 15, the mandolin at 16, and the drums at 17.

At 10 years of age, he played on WDXI and Uncle Tom Williams Farm Hour with now famed Carl Perkins. After high school in Jackson, he served as Gunner's Mate 3rd Class in the U.S. Navy for two years. Since his Navy hitch, he has won several talent shows. His hobbies are hunting and fishing and music. He now heads his own band and plays several of the top clubs in the country, including The Caravan East in Albuquerque, where he holds the attendance record; The Maverick, Valley Cross Roads, The Navajo Hogan, and now is one of the top bands touring for the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

He cut one C/W album for TWA Records out of New York. He has played several C/W shows with such stars as Buck Owens, Johnny Cash and Faron Young. A few months ago, Bob Johnson, who owns and operates The Caravan East Night Club signed Kenny to a personal management contract and a recording contract for the Caravan label.

Kenny cut his first sing session in Hollywood and is now getting ready for his first single release. Mr. Johnson also signed veteran C/W promotion manager Little Richie Johnson (no relation to Bob Johnson) to handle Kenny's promotion.

So...be on the lookout for this boy. He's going all the way ... the name? KENNY VERNON!



Tex Ritter extends a warm welcome to Kenny Vernon – bandsome new C/W star.



Kenny Vernon and his band hard at work onstage.

Johnny Cash poses with Kenny Vernon.



EDITORIAL

Continued from page 6

the future of country music and the future of the Country Music Industry; and with any industry, to make progress it must grow . . . and to grow it must have more followers.

If this is the case, what is the future for the older "hard country" entertainers? Again the answer seems obvious. The recent hit records of our country artists that fall in this category seem to be in one basic classification — novelty! A talking record with an unusual theme, or a novelty tune that becomes a conversation piece! In recent months it has been one or the other.

In this highly competitive world we live in today, it is still the "survival of the fittest." The close proximity of some of the Rock'n Roll and some of the Nashville Sound; the new fans being converted by the modern country artist; and the progress of the talking records and novelty tunes, are factors that will continue to make country music grow and its "sound" polished. As the competition becomes greater . . . so does the quality!

WEST COAST NOTES

Continued from page 7

Everyone in Country Music here in California is still talking about Buck Owens and the Buckaroos recent performance at New York's world famous Carnegie Hall, Brooklyn's Academy of Music and Symphony Hall in Newark, N. J. Buck along with all the Buckaroos, Dick Curless, Kay Adams, and Red Simpson had both Carnegie Hall and Symphony Hall completely sold out two weeks before the show. Who says Country Music won't go in metropolitan areas? Word comes from Capitol Records that Buck's portion of the show was recorded and will be released on an upcoming album.

All I can say when I see how Country Music is growing all over the world is . . . "we've known it all along."

MIDWEST NOTES

Continued from page 7

her a card, her address is P.O. Box 172, Moline, Ill.

There's a new singing star in the Bill West family. At Freeport, Ill., Dottie and Bill's 4-year-old Dale could hardly wait to get on stage. Already he's made a record with Mommy to be released late this spring. Little Dale is a match for Del Reeves any day on the "Doodle oo doo doo's" and he knows "Girl On The Billboard" word for word!

Mr. Dan Habecker has been promoting all types of shows at Freeport's Masonic Temple for three years—and features about four big C/W shows a year. This was our first to attend, but certainly hope it won't be the last.

Met Country Music writer Arlene Steward at this show (she is Midwest reporter for Dody Varney's Big C Writeup. Arlene and other Country folks there were discussing "Combelt Country Style"-Johnny Barton's TV show which has begun on the Rockford channel. My favorite television program and becoming the favorite of C/W fans throughout the Midwest! Our "hometown boy," Junior Garner and "hometown gal," Mary Blue, are becoming such stars, I wonder if they

will even speak to me next time we chance to meet! Just kiddin'-these two have the nicest personalities of almost anyone I know and we are mighty proud of them and all the artists featured on "Combelt Country Style"-The Arkansas Travelers, Duane Campbell, Johnny, Lee Randall, Tom Morgan and all the others.

NASHVILLE NOTES

Continued from page 8

Easely from New Jersey. Scotty recorded an album of the event, with musical numbers by Eddie West and the Country Playboys from Key West, Fla. Thomas Wayne and brother Luther Perkins picked and sang along with other Opry talent. Porter Wagoner had a group of visitors from his TV show, so he didn't vocalize. Kendall Hayes (writer of "Walk On By") had a grand time; he was in town collaborating with Kay Arnold on some new songs. Both are BMI Award winners.

The NARAS Grammy Awards dinner was nothing but fabulous at the Nashville Hillwood Country Club. Roger Miller, Jody Miller and the Statler Brothers received awards. I look for Wilma Burgess to cherish many honors next year.

Johnny Darrell cut his first album at RCA. United Artists Bobby Lewis and Kelso Herston enjoyed a jet flight to New York to do album covers for Bobby's first album ... Joe Taylor graciously turned over his Jim and Jesse contract to Hal Smith, since Hal has syndicated their fine TV show and these Virginia boys are the best in talent and character ... We extend our sympathy to Del Wood, who lost her father the first week in April.

SOUTHEAST NOTES

Continued from page 8

Johnny Dollar is getting very big chart action on his newest for Columbia, "Stop The Start." Johnny is now being managed by Dick Heard in N.Y.C. The promotional end of the staff is WDON DJ Slim Moore.

Country Music returns to Washington's Channel 5 (WTTG-TV) April 2 with the Country Music Caravan. The first show is scheduled for 1½ hours and comes in half hour segments. From one to three will be shown each week, depending on the other programming each Saturday night. I understand that these are Grand Ole Opry shows.

Big K Radio (WKCW, Warrenton) and the Warrenton JayCees will have a big Blue Grass show at Whippoorwhill Lake, Warrenton July 10 and it will be a full day affair. Present will be Flatt & Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys, Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys, Jim & Jesse and The Virginia Boys, The Osborn Brothers, Mac Wiseman, Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, and the Virginians. This will not, however, pre-empt the regular Warrenton Country Music Festival to be held August 6 and 7 at the same place with the regular annual contests.

Red Smiley; May 1, the Virginians; May 8, the Stanley Brothers; May 15, Ernest Tubb and the Texas Troubadors; May 22, Bill Anderson; May 29, Charlie Moore and Bill Napier; June 5, Jim & Jesse; June 12, Del Reeves; June 19, Tommy Cash and The Compton Brothers.

Jimmy Rodgers Continued from page 17

of him, Country Music was officially born and nationally accepted. Personal appearances, stimulated by the success of Rodgers' own in-person shows, have become a paying practice and an established sideline of recording. So electric was Jimmie Rodgers' affect on music that foreign fans learned the English language in order to adequately appreciate this man and his songs. When Jimmie Rodgers walked on the scene, a complete new form of entertainment came into being and modern musical progress came to life.

It is no wonder that the Singing Brakeman, the renowned and beloved Jimmie Rodgers, is called the Father of Country Music!

JOHNNY CASH TO STAR

Continued from page 18

Scores of artists have tried to imitate his yodeling, guitar runs, ad libs, etc., but Jimmie Rodgers still stands out like a beacon.

I have had many letters from his widow and can well understand why Carrie Rodgers was called the "First Lady of Country Music." She assuredly deserved the title.

After looking over my record collection I find that Ernest Tubb, Hank Snow, Webb Pierce, "Lefty" Frizzell and "Montana Slim" are only a few of the big names who have recorded Rodgers numbers. In fact, "Skeets" McDonald has a current hit going titled "Chief Big Buffalo Nickel." The original song was "Desert Blues" recorded by Jimmie in New York City February 12, 1929. A few years back Webb Pierce recorded "In The Jailhouse Now," and presto, it became the Number One hit on all the charts.

Just imagine — if Jimmie could be here today — with all of the modern electronic equipment and "The Nashville Sound" — I don't think he would have any trouble in being the Number One singer. He sang of the railroads, the barrooms, wild women, jails, hoboes, the mountains, valley, moon, everything pertaining to every day life. His era spanned from the windup Victrola phonograph to the electric, hi-fi, and finally, stereo days.

Now, finally, through the tireless efforts of Johnny Cash, he will live once again on the screen in the theaters and drive-ins throughout this great land of ours. I am happy to inform COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE readers that this will come about within the next year. There is no doubt that Country Western fans will be waiting anxiously for the premiere of "The Jimmie Rodgers Story."

CANADIAN NOTES

Continued from page 9

format. Ron hosts many of the Country Music shows touring Saskatchewan. He is planning to feature DJ reports from all of Canada and the U.S. in regard to their "Country comers" and picks for the charts. A current point of interest on Ron's show are the phone calls made by Dave Dudley to Ron on the air. Dave likes this area very much and has adopted it as his second home. He often takes his summer vacations in Saskatchewan; and, in fact, is anticipating a fishing trip this summer here with Ron and Charlie Underhill of MCM Productions (booking agents).

An exciting C/W show in Regina is "Hank's House" hosted by Hank Secord on CKRM. Hank is on all night from midnight to 6 a.m. His popularity is evidenced by the many letters he receives from outside the province. As well as being a fine DJ, he is also a recording artist — album on Rodeo label "The Country Sound Of Hank Secord," backed up by guitarist John Price and band. Hank has proven to be a fine entertainer and has travelled throughout Eastern Canada with other Canadian C/W performers. He wrote most of the songs in his album and is continually requested to sing more of his songs on the show.





ARE STILL AVAILABLE



NOVEMBER ROGER MILLER, JIM REEVES, LORETTA LYNN

DECEMBER
GEORGE JONES, JUDY LYNN, SONNY JAMES

JANUARY BUCK OWENS, SKEETER DAVIS, BOBBY BARNETT

MARCH
EDDIE ARNOLD, DOTTIE WEST, JIMMY DICKENS

APRIL
WILBURN BROS., CARL SMITH, ARCHIE CAMPBELL

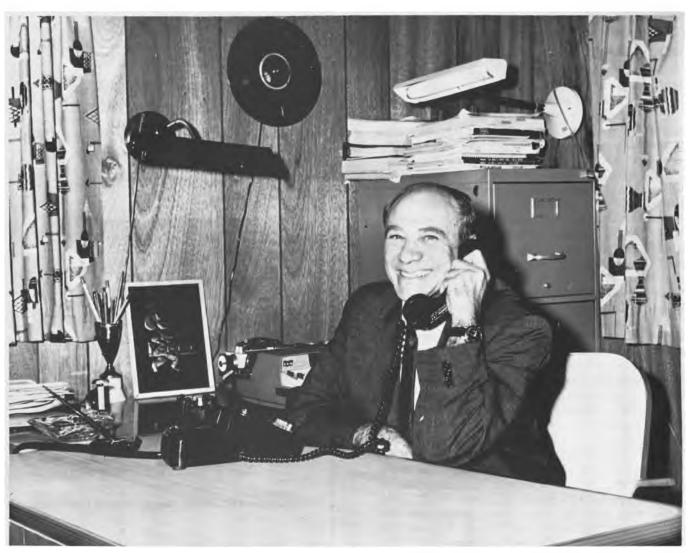


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Salutes.... K-BER



Every once in a while a situation either develops, or is brought to your attention and creates such enthusiasm that you feel as though you must spread the word to everyone – that you must do your best to see that they obtain the recognition that they deserve.

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE wishes to salute Radio Station K-BER of the Alamo City, San Antonio, Texas.

Since this station went on the air in November of 1961 it has become one of the most outstanding country music stations in the nation. In popularity K-BER is consistently within the top stations in their area. Their audience is loyal and consistent. It is the only completely all country station in the San Antonio area. Their advertisers admit that K-BER gives them more for their advertising dollar than any other radio sta-

A. V. "Bam" Bamford apparently enjoys the good news that station K-BER is one of the top Country Music stations in the U.S.

tion in town.

Radio Station K-BER is pronounced K-bear. The County of Bexar in Texas is also pronounced BEAR, hence K-BEAR, San Antonio, "Bear" County.

This extremely progressive radio station is one of the most promotion minded country music stations in the United States. They present a minimum of six big live shows at the municipal auditorium every year, playing upwards to 50,000 persons annually.

K-BER has purchased and parades completely authentic covered wagons, buckboards, frontier buggies, plus mules, donkeys and horses. All are used



Seen backstage at a recent K-BER Grand Ole Opry at Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio are smiling staff members Max Gardner, Bubba Reding, Lou Roney, Harrel Banks, A. V. Bamford and Bob Coleman.



Max Gardner, top K-BER disc jock smiles above the turntables for COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE photographer.



Roger Miller thrills a capacity house at K-BER Grand Ole Opry show in San Antonio.



Roy Clark and Johnny Cash cut up capers onstage during one of K-BER's recent Grand Ole Opry shows at Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio.



Grand Ole Opry audience at San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium, The monthly show is presented by K-BER during fall and winter seasons.



The pretty one is Mrs. San Antonio, K-BER's sponsored entry for this title who won first place. The ugly one is A. V. Bamford, K-BER president. If Mrs. San Antonio gets first in Houston, she will compete for Mrs. America in San Diego, California.

to promote the image of K-BER in the country music field.

Their remote "band wagon" is a complete broadcasting studio and is busy constantly broadcasting grand openings, celebrations, rodeos, stock shows and special events.

This promotion minded station advertises constantly on the back of taxi cabs, over 70 outdoor bill-boards and five drive-in theaters use K-BER tapes for auto entertainment musically as well as flashing K-BER's message on the screen.

At the reins of the station is Mr. A.V. "Bam" Bamford who is a firm believer in the media of advertising. K-BER is its own best advertisement that advertising doesn't cost - it pays!

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE takes pleasure in saluting an organization that has done so much for country music . . . K-BER!

im''
adthat



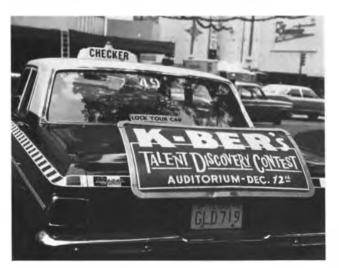
K-BER Radio was spotlighted in the February stock show and rodeo in San Antonio with a live black bear who performed throughout the parade.



A surrey without a fringe on top is a proper setting for K-BER's A.M. disc jockey, Doc Holliday. With years of experience in broadcasting, Doc is a feather in the cap of K-BER.



The K-BER' 'Honey Bears' are a continuing attraction . . each little ''Honey Bear' is carefully chosen for beauty and character . . a symbol of K-BER.



K-BER radio advertising includes cab exploitation, as well as bench and billboard.



K-BER burros enjoy an ovation during the San Antonio stock show and rodeo parade,



Bubba Reding, D-BER salesman, enjoys the company of one of the K-BER burros that are part of the station's advertising gimmicks—eight animals in all.



Some of K-BER's personnel adorn the various vehicles and covered wagons used by the station for promotion and exploitation purposes.

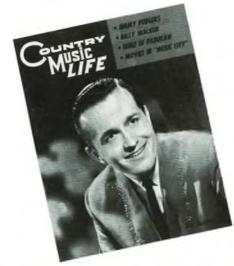


Harrel Banks, sales manager, is in the drivers seat at K-BER Radio in San Antonio. The covered wagon is one of the many frontier properties accumulated by this station.

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No. Dartmouth, Mass.	1	Augusta, Ga.	18
Greenville, Tenn.	26	Detroit, Mich.	20-22
Mocks Corner, S.C.	28	Anaheim, Calif.	24-29
CARL & PEARL BUTLER		WEBB PIERCE	
East Peoria, Ill.	1	South Bend, Ind.	1
Salisbury, Md.	7	Cullman, Ala.	7
Dickerson, Md.	8	Ft. Worth & Dallas	14
Wheeling, W. Va.	11	Houston, Tex.	15
Lenoir, N. C.	21	Tulsa, Okla.	21
Culpepper, Va. Cherry Hill, N. J.	22 28	CARL PERKINS	ሳዕ
Richmond, Va.	26 29	Paynesville, Minn. Minneapolis, Minn.	28 30-31
ARCHIE CAMPBELL	49	CARL SMITH	30-31
East Peoria, Ill.	1	Columbia, S. C.	11
Steelville, Ill.	21	Greenville, S. C.	12
JIMMY DICKENS		Culpepper, Va.	22
South Bend, Ind.	1	HANK SNOW	
Milwaukee, Wisc.	7	Jacksonville, Fla.	6
Lawton, Okla.	12	Orlando, Fla.	7
Amarillo, Tex.	13	St. Petersburg, Fla.	8
Ft. Worth & Dallas	14	Daytona Beach, Fla.	9
Houston, Tex.	15	Knoxville, Tenn.	13
Phoenix, Ariz.	17	Chattanooga, Tenn.	14
Albuquerque, N. M. Denver, Colo.	18 19	Ashville, N. C.	15 26
Omaha, Nebr.	20	Lucedale, Miss.	20
Wichita, Kans.	20	RED SOVINE Europe	1
Kansas City, Kans.	22	Milwaukee, Wisc.	$\hat{7}$
Franklin. Ohio	30	Pittsburgh, Pa.	22
DUKE OF PADUCAH	00	MERLE TRAVIS	
Orlando, Fla.	7	Toronto, Ont., Canada	2-7
Denver, Colo.	19	JUSTIN TUBB	
JOHNNY DARRELL		Lucedale, Miss.	28
Dublin, Ga.	14	PORTER WAGONER	
LEFTY FRIZZELL		Reeds Ferry, N. H.	1
South Bend, Ind.	1	Pensacola, Fla.	5
Salisbury, Md.	7	Conyers, Ga.	6 13
Manlius, N. Y.	14	Wichita Falls, Tex.	14
Reeds Ferry, N. H.	15 21	Ft. Worth & Dallas	15
Steelville, Ill. Dickerson, Md.	29	Houston Freeport, Tex.	16
HOMESTEADERS	20	Greensboro, N. C.	20
Cullman, Ala.	7	Raleigh, N. C.	21
Indianapolis, Ind.	9-14	Jackson, Miss.	26
HARDEN TRIO			
Louisville, Ky.	4	DOTTIE WEST	_
Ashville, N. C.	15	Pensacola, Fla.	5
Steelville, Ill.	21	Dallas, Tex. San Antonio, Tex.	7
Mocks Corner, S. C.	28	Dallas, Tex.	8 9
NORMA JEAN		Gettysburg, Pa.	27
East Peoria, Ill.	1	BILLY WALKER	24
Wichita Falls, Tex. Ft. Worth & Dallas	13 14	South Bend, Ind.	8
Houston, Tex.	15	Wheeling, W. Va.	14
Corpus Christi, Tex.	21	Pittsburgh, Pa.	15
Prentiss, Miss.	26	WILLIS BROTHERS	
Bogalusa, La.	27	Jonesboro, Ga.	1
Ponchatoula, La.	28	Wheeling, W. Va.	14
		Union Lake, Mich.	15
GRANDPA JONES		Steelville, Ill.	21
Indianapolis, Ind.	1	Sayre, Ohio	30
Minneapolis, Minn.	9-14	MAC WISEMAN	-
Toronto, Ont. GEORGE MORGAN	23-28	Springfield, Mo.	7
Dickerson, Md.	1	JOHNNY WRIGHT-KITTY WELLS Mobile, Ala.	1
Daleville, Ind.	13	Louisville, Ky.	4
Corpus Christi, Tex.	21	Milwaukee, Wisc.	7
Lucedale, Miss.	27	South Bend, Ind.	8
MINNIE PEARL		Cedar Rapids, Iowa	10
South Bend, Ind.	1	Kenosha, Wisc.	11
Nashville, Tenn.	2	Racine, Wisc.	13
Ft. Worth & Dallas	14	Aurora, Ill.	14
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