

JUNE 1966

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- *Chet Atkins*
- *Bob Wills*
- *Kitty Wells/Johnny Wright*
- *More Nashville Movies*



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931 W. HOOVER STREET

ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92667

JUNE 1966

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HANK THOMPSON
is our guest columnist this month.
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appears on Page 6.

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

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE is published monthly at Orange, California, P. O. Box 2366, El Modena Station by Country Music Life Publications, telephone (714) 538-8873. Sold by subscription only. One year \$5.00. Two years \$9.00. Canada and overseas, \$2.00 additional. Second class postage entered at Orange, California. Editorial content may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. Copyright 1966, Country Music Life Publications.

**Next
Month
In**



**Roy Rogers Ernest Hardin Waylon
Rogers Tubb Trio Jennings**

"TIPS FROM THE TOP" BY TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD

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.

Westcoast NOTES

By JIM HARRIS

Well, June is here. It's almost summer and we here at CML are looking forward to that time of year with enthusiasm. How can we help being ambitious —when we see the way COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE has been accepted *worldwide*. In just a few short months we have risen from a "pilot issue" to the undisputed leader in the Country Music field.

KGBS in Los Angeles, a 50,000 watt, is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to broadcast until sundown every day—so with daylight saving time here, it means about another hour of Country Music for Southern Californians.

The big talk around here is the recent stand of the Jimmy Dean Show, hosted by KFOX at Melodyland Theatre in Anaheim. (You've heard of Anaheim — it's a suburb of Disneyland.) Jimmy played to packed houses six nights in a row. He had his entire TV cast with him: Molly Bee, the Chuck Cassey Singers and Dancers, and of course Rowlf. It takes a "powerful good" entertainer to top Jimmy Dean, and every time I see him it seems that he gets better. "Six foot six of Texas Slang" and "The man who made the nation Country Music conscious" are just a couple of the handles that have been tacked onto this man. It was a real treat to have Jimmy Dean come to this area.

May 22 through 28, again at Melodyland, the KFOX jocks will host a star studded lineup of talent. Our June issue will be off the press by then, so you will have to wait 'till next month to get the details. I'll give you some clues though as to who is going to be there . . . the No. 1 male Country Singer and his band (and if that isn't enough, let's say that his first name is the same as a well known fictional space pilot; a man who has sold some 20 million records; has one of the top bands in the business—named after a place in Texas; and has the same first name as the man who wrote "Your Cheatin' Heart") . . . one of the best guitarists, also a singer and a very funny man (whose first name is the same as "The King of the Cowboys") . . . a Country comedienne from "Grinders Switch, Tennessee" . . . the gal who wrote lyrics to "Queen of the House," and her last name is the same as a place where you take clothes to have them fitted. If with these clues you still can't figure out who these stars are, don't miss the next issue of CML.

Speaking of shows, read on about the giant Country Music extravaganza scheduled for Saturday night, June 18, at the world famous Hollywood Bowl. Staged by KGBS Radio in LA, it promises to be one of the biggest, if not *the* biggest Country Music shows ever to hit the Southern California area. Over 20 top stars are scheduled to appear. Final word is not yet available as to all participants, but presently signed up are Lorne Green, Eddy Arnold, Warner Mack, Billy Mize, Marion Worth, Justin Tubb, Freddie Hart, Billy Walker, Bonnie Guitar and Skeets McDonald. Is that a lineup of talent? Has this gotta be a tremendous show? You bet it does. And these are just a few —

Canadian NOTES

By IRENE BEELER

CKRM, Regina, Sask., has five additional hours of C/W music to its daily programming. Hank Secord, who formerly ran the all night show on CKRM, has taken over the program. The show from one to five P.M. features an hourly gospel song continuing from the all night show due to popular demand. Also featured are his "king" and "queen," chosen by listeners to reign for one week. Jim Ryan has taken over the all night C/W show from 12 to 6:00 A.M.

The Ferlin Husky Show in April was another complete sell-out in Regina, Sask. and all across the Western provinces. The tour included Minnie Pearl, Melba Montgomery, Leroy Van Dyke and of course, Simon Crum. Also as regulars with Ferlin are Marvis and Orlo Thomson. This was the first trip through Western Canada for this great brother and sister duo from Minnesota.

Russ Wheeler, C/W artist from Toronto is remodeling a 115 year old barn on his farm at Castlemore, Ont. The upper part will be a recording studio and the bottom part will be a showplace for live Country Music shows on Saturday nights, a part of which will be broadcast by CHIC in Brampton, Ont. It is slated to be finished next fall.

Country Music Hall is one of the highest rated TV shows in Canada; and when it comes to emceeing a show you just can't beat that tall handsome Carl Smith, and we are fortunate in having him as host. The regular female vocalist is Dianne Leigh from Hamilton, Ont. The Maple Creek Boys are the regular house band and are some of the top instrumentalists in Canada. In connection with the show Carl has released an album called "Country Music Hall" which will be available only in Canada. Carl Smith and the entire cast of Country Music Hall including some other Canadian artists will tour Western Canada during May and June. They will play all the major cities where Country Music Hall is televised.

Little Gloria Kaye from Edmonton, Alberta, has been making personal appearances in Eastern Canada as well as a guest appearance on the Tommy Hunter Show in Toronto. Little Gloria is only eight years old and she sings in English, Ukrainian, German and French. She has been signed by RCA Victor International.

Bill Anderson's new steel guitarist is a Canadian from Chatham, Ontario—Bob Vincent. He went over real well at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto when Bill played there in March.

Mac Wiseman's latest album includes all Canadian songs, backed up by an all Canadian band, and is called "Mac Wiseman Sings At The Horseshoe Tavern In Toronto." Mac is very popular in Eastern Canada, appearing many times at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto, and also on Country Music Hall.

Curley Erwin's record of "Moon Doll" is doing fine on the Canadian charts. Curley is the Country DJ at CFRY in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. He records for the Eagle label, and tours Manitoba extensively

editorial

NEW CALIF LABEL

COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE congratulates the Northeast Country Music Inc. convention, and wishes them continued success in the promotion of Country Music in their states.

WWVA Radio and Wheeling, W.Va. played host to the 3rd annual Northeast Country Music Inc. convention April 29 and 30. Talent, DJ's, promoters, representatives of record companies, and general representatives and fans of Country Music turned out in a show of staunch support. Three bus-loads of people from Glens Falls, N.Y. came to see WBZA disc jockey Bob Jennings crowned "King DJ of The Great Northeast" and receive a large trophy award.

Highlights of the convention were a banquet with introduction of all present. A general meeting was held in which a few previous policies of the NECMI were altered. A show in the Wheeling Elks' Club gave all member artists a chance to perform.

Officers for the coming year are: "Dusty" Miller, WAFS Amsterdam, N.Y., president; Barry Frank, program director at WEEE Albany, N.Y., secretary/treasurer; Smokey Greene, DJ/artist, Glens Falls, N.Y., vice president. New members of the Board of Directors include Bob Jennings, WBZA, Hugh Clinton, WBUX, Doylestown, Pa.; Quentin Welty, song publisher and manager, Wooster, Ohio; and Red Wilcox, PR director, WBMD, Baltimore, Md. Artist Kenny Roberts was appointed an honorary member of the board. Bob Jennings was appointed Chairman of the Board.

The convention was climaxed with the WWVA Jamboree in which several member artists performed. Both "King DJ" Bob Jennings and NECMI president Dusty Miller were introduced by Jamboree director Lee Sutton and spoke from the stage. Mr. Miller announced that NECMI had designated Wheeling as its home convention site and would hold its convention there each year. He stated that they had voted to include West Virginia as the ninth state in its group. All country music artists, disc jockeys, promoters, etc. of West Virginia are invited to join NECMI.

Since Moserite Records was formed last February in Bakersfield, Calif., they have released three records. The first two caused quite a stir in Southern California, both being chart items. The Ronnie Sessions release, "Queen of Snob Hill," is currently No. 7 at one Bakersfield station (tabulated from listener requests) and the flip side, "Last Night in Town" is No. 41 at the other (based on sales).

Al Brumley's "It's Starting All Over Again" is proving to be a steady climber throughout the state and speaks of a promising future for this artist. (Al is the son of Gospel Music's Albert E. Brumley, and brother of steel guitarist Tom Brumley.)

Just released is the new sound of Joe & Rose Lee Maphis. These perennial favorites, long associated with Mosrite musical instruments, have looked to the new record company for their first major hit, and it looks as if they've picked a winner. The two sides, "Send Me Your Love A.P.O." and "Write Him A Letter," are as timely as the current world situation, and as catchy as any tunes to come out of Bakersfield this year.

Along with the Maphis hit, Mosrite has re-mailed the Ronnie Sessions release. A technical error in the original master has been corrected and it is hoped that the quality of the new pressing will better impress the nation's disc jockeys.

Mosrite Records is the child of Mosrite of California, one of America's most highly respected makers of guitars. The parent company was developed by president Semie Moseley from a one-man operation which built the original Joe Maphis guitar (the one that still accompanies Joe wherever he goes) in 1954, to the present operation which employs 70 people and turns out some 600 guitars per month.

The future is looking great for both Mosrite Records and Mosrite of California. The label has just signed Tommy Duncan, in addition to several new artists never before heard on records, and is anticipating more hits from material soon to be released.



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TIPS FROM THE TOP

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

By

HANK THOMPSON



A question most often asked by young people is, "How do I get started in this business?" This is a simple question, but yet a difficult, if not impossible question to answer.

It is as though the eager interrogator expects you to say, "Oh, to get started in this business you just fill out this application form and mail it to the above address." This procedure applies to many labor and clerical jobs. But in free enterprise ventures, especially the artistic field, there are about as many ways of getting started as there are people in these professions.

Time creates different circumstances, conditions and opportunities. An avenue of approach used a generation ago may no longer be available. In its place may be new unexplored pathways eventually leading to one's goal.

As an example, when I started there was no television. But radio was a big thing for live talent. And it was not too difficult for an amateur to be heard on the radio. Television on the other hand, even on the local level, is pretty much restricted to the professionals.

Recording contracts are far easier to come by now than they were twenty years ago. But the competition is keener, thus leaving many lost in the shuffle of the recording industry's "horn of plenty."

In today's influence of collectivist thinking, too many young people have the tendency to imitate and follow popular trends and temporary fashions rather than seek the individualism of originality and creativeness which was the prevalent thinking only a couple of generations ago.

All in all, it would seem that there are more opportunities today, but less chance of yield. In fact, it rather confuses me. If I had to "get started" in 1966, instead of 1946 I wouldn't know exactly how to begin.

There is one thing that the young star of tomorrow has in his favor: He is unaware of the many disappointments, setbacks, fruitless promises, waiting, mistakes, and failures that lie ahead of him. But if he has his goal clearly zeroed in—if he isn't afraid of lots of hard work and long hours—and if he can constantly thwart discouragement, he may emerge among the top in his industry. Then others will refer to him as "lucky."

Continued on page 9

Nashville

NOTES



By

PAUL AND RUTH CHARON

The warm sun has finally arrived in Nashville, making the open road more pleasant for Country stars following the highways in all directions. We live here in the suburbs of Music City—Madison, Tenn—on the banks of the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake, favorite fishing spot of the stars.

Many of the Opry stars live in Madison and Brentwood, and you see them sometimes in the local stores. I found Marty Robbins in the drug store a while back, pondering the racing mags. He has since made a new movie, "The Road To Nashville," at WSEX TV Studios in Technicolor on the large Techniscope screen. The film will feature Richard Arlen, Doodles Weaver, Marty and Connie Smith in a light story theme. Johnny Cash, The Carters, Hank Snow, The Stonemans, Porter Wagoner, Faron Young, Ralph Emery, Kitty Wells, Webb Pierce and a host of C/W artists appear in this Robert Patrick production. Mr. Patrick is back in Hollywood, planning to do at least three cinemas a year in Nashville.

I found Kitty Wells at the cleaners with a stack of show clothes (hers, Johnny Wright's and Ruby's). We discussed the movies and she said, "I really long to get in a film where I could do some real acting, aside from singing." Over a coke in Shoney's, Ralph Emery said the same thing, "I love this acting and would like to do it full time, along with my WSM TV and radio show." You know, these stars are so eager, talented and creative—they need an 100-hour-day!

Rushing to the post office the other day to mail some subscriptions for CML, I met so many music personalities that it took two hours! Bobby Lewis was mailing out deejay letters and preparing for an eleven day tour in Chicago, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut. He gave me a copy of his new release, "You Remind Me Of Myself" b/w "I Hope You Find In Him (What You Were Looking For In Me)." Before I could get it on the record player, Bob Jennings played it that morning on WLAC — it is great! United Artists and Kelso Kerston surely know what they're doing.

Then Clarence Selman came in for the Jim Reeves Enterprises' mail. He mentioned that they were re-activating the Shannon Label, formed by Jim before his death. Sessions are being cut, leased and artists signed in the advancement of this company, headed by Mary Reeves. Acclaim Music published the current Porter Wagoner smash, "I Just Came To Smell The Flowers," by Vic McAlpin.

Jack Wizard, formerly the lead singer with the Homesteaders, is now working as a single and has cut "Walking In High Cotton" b/w "You Turned Out Just As Bad." Skeeter Davis worked the Eddy Arnold

Continued on page 8

Midwest

NOTES

By

MARY ANN COOPER

Are U.F.O.'s real ... or would you believe ... swamp gas? The Five Guys (WJJD's Western Gentlemen in disguise) have a two-sided novelty entitled "U.F.O.—Parts 1 and 2" and would you believe, a most asked question, "Is that on record?" It really is! (Quill Label). It tells a little Nashville-based story, with the use of excerpts from quite a few top C&W records.

"Colonel" Bill Green, known in St. Louis radio circles many a year, has joined the DJ staff of WGNU, Granite City, Illinois' C&W station. An ex-DJ there, Gary Marcum, has joined—involuntarily, but willingly—the army. Gary plans to continue in radio work.

"Country Music U.S.A." comes on one and a half hours earlier now, so all of you can hear some good music at night. Dial 1040 at 10:30 P.M. (central daylight time). The show's host, Mike Hoyer, will have some substitute disc jockeys a few times this summer. Scheduled are Bill Anderson June 8-9; George Hamilton IV, June 10-11 (while Mike takes a bus or two of fans to Nashville); and Dave Dudley from July 11 to 14.

Recent guests on the favorite area TV show, "Cornbelt Country Style," have been Sims recording artist Vernon Glen, Christy Lane, and fresh from Texas—Jack Reno. Jack, who claims we never mention him in any of our columns, became an Illinois resident the last week of April and newest member of the WXCL Peoria staff. His latest record is "Put The Bottle On The Bar."

It was good to hear Tom Morgan back at WHOW in April. Tom has a new song he wrote and sings well that we think is real cute—"Bad News Charlie." Tom, Ben & Ken Cooley, and Jimmy Lee comprise the Arkansas Travelers, top Midwest country performers.

Premier Entertainment Inc. of West Allis, Wisconsin, issues an interesting little C/W paper called "Premier Pitter Patter"—the phone number at the top of the "Pitter" terrifies me. Think of trying to dial 543690001020304. That doesn't even include the area code? Premier is associated with full time C/W station, WYLO.

Ardent C/W fans Judy and Donna England of Sullivan, Illinois, are now managing an up and coming band of which their brother Gary is the guitarist. These gals are very active promoters and talkers.

Was happy to be named an honorary member of the newly organized fan club for KSTL and Dot Records' Jenny Jamison. The club prexy is Monica Beaird, 1002 Hubert Street, Festus, Mo. 63028. The title Skeets Yaney gave Jenny a few years ago, "St. Louis' Comfield Canary" has been adapted by the club.

Tony Mazzola, producer of The Norville Dollar TV Show, currently seen over KPLR St. Louis, reports that the show will soon become syndicated. Norville's popularity is spreading all over the country via his "Lonely Man" hit.

Then St. Louis lost one of its "very local artists"

Continued on page 9



Southeast

NOTES

By RED WILCOX

On April 12 this reporter and wife Bea, area promoter Jim Clark, and the Compton Brothers were invited to a sneak preview of the movie "Music City, USA" in Falls Church, Va. Many people from Gemini Pictures were there, including Messrs. Alfriend and Barrett. The showing was especially for Mr. Quinn who is to take the film to Milan, Italy to be entered in the film festival there. The color and photography in this movie is excellent, and the film should prove to be very popular overseas as well as stateside. On April 23 Harry Compton joined Warner Mack on the WWVA Jamboree as publicity for the movie.

We will not go into detail about the NECMI convention in Wheeling, W. Va. April 29-30 in this column, since Doug LaValley will be covering it in the Northeast News column. However, one item of interest is that the Compton Brothers are now regulars of the WWVA Jamboree. They are due in Nashville to record May 9 and 10 as well as to sign a contract with Dot Records. Warner Mack will be A&R man.

Red Allen and the Kentuckians are extremely proud of their Country album entitled "Bluegrass Country." Also, a patriotic single "Purple Heart." The Country Gentlemen have a new album out also on Rebel Records.

WDON DeeJay Tom Reeder is now back on the video tubes over Washington, D.C.'s brand new UHF outlet—Channel 20. The Stringdusters band is featured along with Tom, and all this takes place at 10:00 P.M. on Saturdays.

Washington, D.C., is very proud of Sonny Garrish, former steel guitarist with Bob Taylor's Stringdusters, who moved to Nashville late in April to join Bill Anderson's great band. Our best wishes are with Sonny although we will sincerely miss him. Rudy Gavaletto, formerly with the late Eddie Matherly's Kountry Kings, joins the Stringdusters as steelman.

Country Music moves into Washington's elite Constitution Hall May 27 for a show starring Roy Acuff, Faron Young, The Compton Brothers, Van Treavor, and the Oxon Hill Cloggers. Area resident, Johnny Dollar of Columbia and the Compton Brothers are also scheduled on the titanic show going into Yankee Stadium the first week in August.

Smitty Irvin of the Virginians has gone into business for himself operating a truck center and restaurant near Fredricksburg, Va. Johnny Dollar's "Stop The Start" is climbing the charts all over the nearby area. Johnny reports mail from all over the country shows this same progress. Another "Dollar" getting much "air play" in the same area is Norville Dollar of Nugget Records (no relation to Johnny) with his "Lonely Man/My Hurt's Too Deep For Tears."

Congratulations to WDON's Slim Moore and wife, Helga, who recently became parents of a daughter. Also to Tom and Liz Compton on the birth of the long

Continued on page 9

TEN TOP TUNES



DISTANT DRUMS

Jim Reeves—RCA Victor 8789



TIPPY TOEING

Harden Trio—Columbia 43463

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Buddy Starcher—Boone 1038



I LOVE YOU DROPS

Bill Anderson—Decca 31890



I WANT TO GO WITH YOU

Eddy Arnold—RCA Victor 8723



TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER

Sonny James—Capitol 5612



I'M LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

Bonnie Guitar—Dot 16811



TALKIN' TO THE WALL

Warner Mack—Decca 31911



WOULD YOU HOLD IT AGAINST ME

Dottie West—RCA Victor 8770



I'M A PEOPLE

George Jones—Musicor 1143

NASHVILLE NOTES *Continued from page 6.*

concert tour in San Diego, so Paul Charon worked with Jack in Indiana, Iowa and Seward Air Base shows.

Johnny Russell has done some skilled acting in "Girl From Tobacco Row," then upped his schedule to record for Fabor Records "Making Plans" b/w "Your World Might Be Turning."

Still at the post office, we saw through the window little Pam Dickinson delivering her new Monument release, "Baby Don't Treat Me This Way."

Rachel Roman, striking brunette 20th Century Fox film star, has arrived in Nashville to work on the full color cinema, "Girl From Tobacco Row." The movie is produced by Ron Ormand and current scenes are being shot at Starday's Don Pierce Old Hickory Lake Ranch in the suburbs of Nashville. Co-starring with Miss Roman is Gordon Terry. The film is scheduled to open June 1 in Louisville, Ky.

Nashville is becoming an important movie-making center of the U.S., being geographically centered for travel and close to film distributors and abounding in lovely natural settings (lakes, mountains, snow, farmland, seasonal change).

Producer Ormand takes full advantage of the area in "Girl From Tobacco Row," and is filming many scenes outdoors. Also appearing with Miss Roman are Tex Ritter, Earl (Snake) Richards, Rita Faye, Johnny Russell (writer of "Act Naturally"), Tim Ormand and Rusty, their dog, with character "heavies" portrayed by Ralph Emery, Walter Haynes, Ed Livingston, Howard White, Dean Turner, Cecil Scaiffe, and a walk-on by Harris Martin.

News from the Buster Doss Talent Agency—new ventures of an Opry sideman of the fifties and San Diego, Smokey Rogers, Buck Wayne band member; Jack Boles, formerly with Starday Records, has just signed with Wizard Records, and has a single to be released soon—"Worry Bird" (written by Kay Arnold and Kendall Hayes). Jack is also booking with his own band for dances and shows out of the Buster Doss Talent Agency. We wish him luck as an old friend, since my son Paul worked with him, Buck and Smokey, when he first entered the Country Music business at age 15. These folks all gave him encouragement and help. Now, at age 23, Paul is working as the drummer with Skeeter Davis on the Grand Ole Opry and all of her other shows. I remember that all of these wonderful personalities warned Paul of the hard work and heart-break of show business.

Dick Brill, executive from 20th Century Fox Studios, stopped briefly in Nashville. He said he would be back and I could do a story later. Is this studio of fame looking over Nashville for future reference??

Another star to look for is Leeb Brinson. Quote Dixie Deen, Cecil & Annette Null and the Nashville musicians who played his session, "Leeb Brinson will become the hottest thing since radio. He out 'soul' sings Buck Owens and George Jones." *If that is possible!*

My visit was finally cut short by Gordon Terry, Tex Ritter, Rachel Roman, Tim Ormond, Jean Matthews, Walter Haynes and Ralph Emery, who were hurrying me to the movie set of "Girl From Tobacco Row." "Stop gabbing—the cameras are rolling in 15 minutes at Don Pierce's Hickory Lake Ranch."

WEST COAST NOTES

continued from page 4

over three hours of continuous Country Music. If you can't make it, read about it in this column in the August issue of CML.

Word comes down from Bakersfield confirming rumors that filming has begun on the new movie, "The Buck Owens Story." The subject of the film is the present day life of America's top Country entertainer and will also star all the Buckaroos — Don Rich, Doyle Holly, Tom Brumley, and Willy Cantu, Buck's talented band.

Well, I better get this column in to the typesetter before they come after me with a net. Keep an eye out for the July issue of CML where I'll reveal the names of all those stars. Better yet, see the show.

SOUTHEAST NOTES

continued from page 7

awaited daughter, Christine Marie, born on Harry Compton's birthday.

Lynchburg, Va. recently staged a "Ray Pillow Day" in honor of hometown Ray. He then starred in a show featuring Tex Ritter and Dottie West. The Mayor of Lynchburg and representatives of Capitol Records helped make it a day Ray will long remember.

Carl Brenner, VP of WBMD Radio and CMA board member, was on hand for the 44th annual convention of the NAB in Chicago. Mr. Brenner was one of the lead speakers of the Bill Gavin Programming conference and used as his subject "The Wonderful World of Country Music." WBMD has been most successful with a country format and relating tie-ins including the spectaculars in the Baltimore Civic Center.

CANADIAN NOTES

continued from page 4

with his own band.

Mickey and Bunny, Canada's top Ukrainian recording artists are currently making their spring tour in Sask. and Man. They put on an outstanding show in Ukrainian and English, and are in constant demand. They are backed by the Dee Drifters Five from Winnipeg, on tour as well as on their Vee recordings. They have released a new album which is a live performance of their show at Massey Hall in Toronto.

MIDWEST NOTES

continued from page 7

Jimmy Payne when he recently made the move to Nashville. He works for the Glaser Brothers in their publishing firm. One of Jim's big pet peeves is being termed "local artist"—he even started signing autographs "Locally Yours, Jimmy Payne" there for a while. Actually though, Jim hasn't really "unlocated" himself by moving at all, since he returns every week end to the Gateway City suburb of St. Charles where he and his combo play at the Western Lounge.

Have a happy, enjoyable summer by attending all the many live country music shows that are at the fairs, outdoor parks, etc. in your area. That's what I plan to do!

.....

HELP UNCLE SAM • USE ZIP CODES

.....

TIPS FROM THE TOP

continued from page 6

There is one other ingredient — talent. Necessary, but by no means the backbone of success. There are many talented people among the unemployed. Unapplied talent is nothing.

It was Edison who said that success is ten per cent inspiration, and ninety per cent perspiration. We are told that it was his ten thousandth experiment that produced an electric light. Which means that if he had become discouraged and quit after trying nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine times, we might still be using the "coal oil lamp" for something besides a decoration.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

Audio Fidelity Records is entering the C/W field under new label — Little Darlin' Records—announced president Herman D. Gimbel. Aubrey Mayhew, who will supervise the Little Darlin' label, has obtained Johnny Paycheck and Country Johnny Mathis to launch records under the new affiliation.

* * * * *



Producer Jack Clement (left) and The Glaser Brothers Tompall, Chuck and Jim—huddle prior to kicking off a recent MGM recording session, the first for the Glasers after signing up with the label. Three songs were cut for release in May, "The Last Thing On My Mind," "More Or Less" and "Big Brother."

* * * * *

New Kitty Wells single was recently released by Decca—"It's All Over But The Crying" b/w "You Left Your Mark On Me," by Jim Anglin.

* * * * *

When four guys with a small electronics firm cook up a new super-sound machine that makes every disc a hit record, heads are bound to turn. Mix in twin love affairs, a conniving big city record producer who wants their secret of success, and a Rube Goldberg pizza-making machine and you've got the ingredients of movie "Gold Guitar." The cast is headlined by Del Reeves, Hugh X. Lewis and Roy Drusky (the electronics firm owners), Margie Bowes (their secretary) and Veteran comic Sam Tarpley (the electronic brain). The biggest scene stealers however are the machines the boys built — a transistorized, hypersensitive, laser-powered thingamagig which turns records into super-hits — and a Buck Rogers, self-contained pizzeria. After Margie makes a smash record with the assistance of machine number one some glue-fingered puddin'-headed crooks try to steal it, but wind up with machine number two! "Gold Guitar" is slated for release in late summer.

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Funeral services were held in April for Oscar Wagoner, brother of Grand Ole Opry artist Porter Wagoner, in West Plains, Mo.

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First LP by Robe Records, "The Two Sides of the Prophets," has recently been released, according to J. William Denny, president of Cedarwood Publishing Co. The album will feature The Prophets, a Gospel music group from Knoxville and a selection of new songs, most of which were written by Jan Crutchfield. The new LP introduces a new approach to the Gospel sound—the use of marimbas and other "unorthodox" musical instruments; was recorded at Bradley's Barn and produced by Crutchfield.

* * * * *

Johnny Paycheck's newest single, "The Lovin' Machine," has been released on the Little Darlin' label and is expected to be a smash. He is currently touring the Northwest and then will join the Jayne Mansfield Show in Jacksonville, Fla. for a 29-day tour of the South. Bob Neal and Aubrey Mayhew are planning a syndicated TV show for Johnny with special routines and material particularly arranged for Paycheck. He recorded Madison Ave-type radio commercials now being heard on 500 radio stations over the country. Johnny is planning to move permanently to Nashville and office space has already been acquired on 18th Ave. S to house The Paycheck Co. (producing & artist company), Mayhew Music, BMI, Janon Music, ASCAP, and the Nashville office of Little Darlin' Records.

* * * * *



Ted Henson, right, three-time world champion fly caster, presents a Fenwick Rod, registered and guaranteed for life, to a fellow fisherman, "The Duke of Paducah," in honor of Duke's 65th birthday and 44th year in show business.

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Recent guests on the Wilburn Brothers' TV Show included Johnny Russell who did his first Fabor record, "Making Plans" and "Act Naturally," recorded by Buck Owens, the Beatles, and some 20 others.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

J. William Denny, president of Cedarwood Publishing Co. and the Country Music Association, has been selected for listing this year in *Outstanding Young Men of America* and *Who's Who in the South & Southwest*. *Outstanding Young Men of America* is published annually and lists young men in America who are outstanding in ability, accomplishments and service to their communities, country and profession. Former recipients of the honor include the late President John F. Kennedy, Tenn. Gov. Frank G. Clement, Dr. Tom Dooley and Henry Ford II. *Who's Who in the South & Southwest* also selects for annual recognition men and women who have made similar contributions. Denny is also VP of radio WJAT, Swainsboro, Ga., WBRO, Waynesboro, Ga., and WSNT, Sandersville, Ga., a partner of Hatch Show Print Inc., a member of the board of governors of NARAS (Nashville chap.), a member of the Nashville Jr. Chamber of Commerce and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

* * * * *

Mac Wiseman has opened a booking agency in Wheeling, W. Va., to be known as Wise-O-Man Talent Agency. Purpose of his move from Nashville is to book members of the WWVA Jamboree. Wiseman will work closely with Jamboree Director Lee Sutton in arranging dates, too, for guest artists in connection with their appearances on the Jamboree. He will continue to operate his music publishing company from Wheeling, in addition to being a regular member of the WWVA Jamboree.

* * * * *

Yodeling King Kenny Roberts headed north for a 17-day tour of the Maritime Provinces in Canada in May. Sponsored by Station CFOX in Montreal, the tour included Bill Anderson and the Carter Family. On returning to the States, Kenny kicked off a string of one-nighters in New York State.

* * * * *

Song writer Merle Travis, who recently moved to Nashville from California, has signed an exclusive writer's contract with Tree Publishing Co. He has written such hits as "16 Tons," "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke That Cigarette," "Divorce Me C.O.D." and "So Round So Firm So Fully Packed."

* * * * *

Bobby Bare performed before big city crowds at Symphony Hall in Newark, N. J. April 22 and Carnegie Hall in New York April 23, winding up an extensive road trip covering Western Canada, the Northwest and Michigan. Back in town, he was scheduled for four days of recording, then out again for a series of one-nighters through the southern states.

* * * * *

Webb Pierce came to Los Angeles to tape a guest appearance on CBS TV "Lloyd Thaxton Show." The highly-popular network show will depart from its normal pop-rock format and feature Pierce doing two of his most recent and popular numbers, "You Ain't No Better Than Me" and "I Ain't Never."

* * * * *

Plans in the City of Nashville are to set up a special Music City post office and First American National Bank is setting up a new Music City branch to handle the music money.

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Kathy Dee, the girl with more than enough talent, showmanship, personality and experience to capture any audience, visited the WGN television Barn Dance as the special guest, Saturday, April 30, 6:00 P.M. telecast in color. Kathy joined regulars Bob Atcher, Red Blanchard, Dolph Hewitt, Arkie the Arkansas Woodchopper, the Johnson Sisters, Bob & Bobbie Thomas, Cousin Tilford and The Sage Riders.

* * * * *

Grand Ole Opry comic Archie Campbell didn't give his opponents much to laugh about in April when he competed at the Dean Hill Country Club's annual Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn. The former Knoxville native, now a Nashvillian recording on the RCA Victor label, led the low-scoring amateur group and recorded the winning tally. The tournament served as a kick-off to the East Tennessee Pro-Am Assn.'s annual meeting and featured area pros and members of the press and radio corps.

* * * * *

Ferlin Husky's lovely wife wasn't doing too much driving during April. Seems Ferlin left town on a tour and forgot to buy the required new Tennessee license tags for the car. Mrs. Husky was grounded until a friend consented to stand in line for the new plates.

* * * * *

Leroy Van Dyke's new release "You Couldn't Get My Love If You Tried" features the talent of arranger-musician Bill Justice, who is usually associated with rockers, but does a fine wrap-up on this effort.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



"It seemed a shame," explained Dottie O'Brien, talent booker for Nashville's "Black Poodle" night club, "that here in the Country Music capitol of the world there wasn't a single night club booking the brand of music the city's famous for. So I just decided to give it a try." The Black Poodle located in downtown "Printers Alley," did a 180-degree turn-around when it booked the alley's first C/W act in January. But whatever doubts Dottie may have had were soon dissolved, for the act she gambled on was The Stonemans, and right from the start, the gate grew. They literally captivated the audiences and as word got around, even die-hard pop fans and local founding fathers came to see what all the ruckus was about. "I'm convinced now," exults Dottie, "that Country Music is just about the hottest thing in the entertainment world today. Generally speaking, it's an almost certainty to cure what ailments a club may be having at the gate."

* * * * *

Monument Record's "Travelin' Texan," Billy Walker, will play a three day string of PA's in Hamilton, Bermuda June 24-26 as a followup to Justin Tubb's successful appearance April 21-23. David Lopes, official of the Bermuda Broadcasting Co. and purchaser of the tours, expressed surprise and satisfaction at the reception accorded Tubb, his first C/M purchase.

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Back from Germany, Hubert Long reports that Simon Crum had an easier time with the language than either he or Ferlin Husky. They were all impressed by the cleanliness of German homes and businesses.

* * * * *

Kathy Dee is returning to the C/W record scene after an absence of nearly two years, during which she has built a successful show which has played major clubs and military bases from coast to coast. Kathy's new contract is with Progressive Sounds of America and her first session is set for the second week in June. The Kathy Dee Show has been most recently on an overseas tour for the Air Force—their third in the past year. Her activities are still coordinated by Quentin Welty of B-W Music, Inc.

* * * * *

Del Reeves, who co-stars with Margie Bowes in the upcoming Country Music movie, "Gold Guitar," says movie-goers probably will suspect trickery in one of his scenes, but that they'll be mistaken. The film will show Del standing on a three-foot ledge on a 21-story building, singing a song. The truth is, that's exactly what Del did during the Atlanta filming. What's more, there wasn't a net below and Del had to buck a strong wind all during the sequence. The scene was so realistic to passers-by that some on-looker summoned both police and fire units to rescue what appeared to be a potential suicide. Was Del nervous? "Only afterward," he said. "At the time I was so intent on remembering my lines and cues I didn't have time to get scared."

* * * * *

"Ray Pillow Day" was observed by Lynchburg, Virginia, on April 15. The festivities were sponsored by radio station WBRG in Lynchburg and climaxed that evening by a C/W show featuring Ray, Dottie West and Tex Ritter. Attending the show were the mayor of Lynchburg, dignitaries from Capitol Records and the City of Nashville.

* * * * *

For the first time in over a decade Country Music will return to the DAR's prestigious Constitution Hall in the nation's capital May 27. To appear are Roy Acuff and the Smoky Mountain Boys, Faron Young and the CountryDeputies, Dottie West, Hank Williams Jr. and the Cheating Hearts with Audrey Williams, Marvin Rainwater, Charlie Moore, Bill Napier, Van Trevor and the Compton Brothers. The show is being hosted by Radio Station WDON and produced by Country Music Promotions of Washington, D.C. Engraved invitations have gone out to the President and the First Family, who are reputed to be Country music fans. A reception is planned at the Marriott Motor Inn following the show.

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Billy Walker hit the Alabama campaign trail in April with Mrs. George Wallace, the state's lone female gubernatorial candidate. Walker's band traveled with the vote-seeking entourage and played twice on each of the five campaign days.

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April was a busy month for Linda Manning, touring Texas, Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin, and promoting her new Roulette release "Buy Me Something Pretty Joey."

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

Country Music's most recent syndicated TV show, "The Stonemans," were premiered in Chicago in April, according to Bob Bean, manager. The 30-minute segments will use no guests or standard standup comic routines. "We felt we had enough talent incorporated within the unit itself to make it strictly a family-oriented show from start to finish," explained Bean. "After all, there are 23 members of the Stoneman family and each one is an accomplished musician and clown!"

* * * * *

Charley Pride, C/W's first Negro recording artist on a major label, returned to Nashville April 15 for his second RCA Victor recording session, according to Jack Clement, his manager and producer of his first hit record, "Snakes Crawl At Night." After a brief stay in Nashville, Pride returned to his home state Montana for six days of radio station-sponsored personal appearances with Carl Belew, Johnny Paycheck, Johnny Darrell and Karen Kelly.

* * * * *

The Glaser Brothers' first recording session on the MGM label was April 12. The popular trio—Jim, Chuck and Tompall Glaser—recently signed with MGM after a five year association with Decca. Previous best sellers were "Let Me Down Easy" and "Girl Like You."

* * * * *

Moss Rose executive Audie Ashworth, working under the auspices of Hubert Long Talent, coordinator for the new country flick, "Gold Guitar," recently aired the music tracks for the film. The movie starring Del Reeves and Margie Bowes is slated to begin filming in Atlanta the middle of April. Much of the credit for the tracks recorded goes to engineers Charlie Talent and Jerry Bradley. They include Del Reeves singing "One Bum Town" and "Anywhere U.S.A.," Roy Drusky vocalizing "Alone With You" and "Unless You Make Him Set You Free" and Hugh X. Lewis singing "It's A Mean Ole World" and "You're Not Here To Scold Me." Other sessions for the movie include Skeeter Davis with "I Can't See Me Without You" and "I've Forgotten More," and Bill Carlisle performing "What Kind Of Deal Is This" and "Take That Country Music And Shove It."

* * * * *

The Eddy Arnold troop have changed their itinerary to include Carnegie Hall, The Brooklyn Academy of Music and Symphony Hall in Newark, N. J.

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Hugh X. Lewis, Ferlin Husky and Johnny Sea will all be taking trans-Atlantic flights in early summer for shows in England and Germany. Melba Montgomery is also scheduled for the European circuit in mid-summer.

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Bill Anderson, who is cashing in with his "Still" composition as performed by the Sunrays, is eyeing more pop market cash with Don Cherry's version of "I Love You Drops."

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Funnyman Don Bowman guested on "Don McNeill's Breakfast Club" May 17 and kept the cast in stitches during rehearsals. Nothing unusual for Don.

* * * * *

Jimmy Newman left April 28 for a three week tour of Germany to entertain servicemen and civilians. This was the first trip abroad for the Cajun star who high on the charts with "Back Pocket Money" and "Artificial Rose."

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"Dave Dudley Day" was April 23 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, when Dave made his first appearance in his home town since becoming successful in the C/W field. Dignitaries of city and state were on hand to welcome him.

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Mel Tillis (right) of Cedarwood Publishing Co., signs with Kapp Records. Beaming approval at the company's latest "blue-chip" catch is Nashville A&R director Paul Cohen.

* * * * *

Several thousand staunch C/M fans braved heavy rains in Steubenville, Ohio, in April to attend the first C&W show in several years to play the Civic Arena. Headliners on the show were Don Gibson, Johnny Dollar, Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper, Bill Carlisle, Hugh X. Lewis, and Shirlee Mae & the Mae Boys.

* * * * *

Van Trevor, currently clicking with his Country ballad, "Born To Be In Love With You," has been booked for a string of New Jersey and Pennsylvania beginning with the Copa Club in Secaucus, N.J.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

April 27 was designated "Dottie & Bill West Day" by their Alma Mater, Tennessee Tech, in Cookeville, Tenn. and consisted of campus tours, department visits, a luncheon-testimonial and a concert by the RCA Victor songstress in the evening. Other performers appearing with the Wests were Faron Young and the Deputies, Minnie Pearl, Waylon Jennings and the Weylors, and the Harden Trio. Proceeds from the event went toward establishing a scholarship in the Dept. of Music for deserving students. Dottie was a music major while at the university, and Bill studied engineering.

* * * * *

WEET Radio launched the first "Country-Wide Cavalcade" April 3 in Richmond. Over 7,000 people crowded into the capitol city's Mosque to see Porter Wagoner, Loretta Lynn, Stonewall Jackson and the Wilburn Brothers.



RCA Victor recording artist Waylon Jennings has moved to Nashville in order to establish a permanent home base for his career in Country Music, and in order to preserve the sound he's managed to sell so successfully, has also persuaded his band, "The Weylors," to relocate with him from their home-base of Phoenix. The young artist was discovered by Chet Atkins and signed to a contract last year with RCA. Subsequently two of his first three recording sessions produced hit records, "That's The Chance I'll Have To Take," "Stop The World and Let Me Off" and "Anita, You're Dreaming." Second day in Nashville, he filmed guest-artist segments in the movie, "The Road To Nashville," and for the next two months faces an almost solid series of PA's arranged by the Moeller Talent Agency.

* * * * *

"The man with a million friends," T. Texas Tyler, has recently recorded a Starday single coupling a recitation, "Just Like Dad" with an instrumental, "Texas Boogie Woogie." A Starday album will follow shortly. Starday president, Don Pierce, claims he got started in the Country Music business selling T. Texas Tyler records when he was a salesman for the now inactive Four Star Label in California shortly after World War II. He remembers such hits as "Remember Me," "Oklahoma Hills," "Baby," "Deck of Cards," "Dad Gave My Dog Away," "Bumming Around," "Courtin' In The Rain," etc. An unexpired contractual agreement prevented Tex Tyler from making recordings for many years, and he went into the ministry. His new recordings for Starday will be in both Country and Sacred categories.

* * * * *

Bill Anderson is watching the growth of his latest composition, "I Love You Drops," climb into the pop charts with Vic Dana and Don Cherry. Bill is riding his own version into the Country category.

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Skeeter Davis had a lot of fun posing for pictures with a fellow performer last week during the Grand Ole Opry. Jim Nabors, star of TV's "Gomer Pyle," caught the Country classic during a recent trip to Nashville.

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Leroy Van Dyke who just finished a packed-house engagement at Al Hirt's New Orleans nightclub, is slated to take a rest during mid-April, but will work some Western dates at the end of the month.

* * * * *

Johnny Sea is combing the publishing houses looking for new material for an upcoming recording date. It will be his first for the Warner Bros. label and Dick Glaser is flying in for the session. Johnny hopes to break the association with Johnny Cash's style, which some say has hurt his career.

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Hank Mills, composer whose name appeared on over 40 records last year, says, "Del Reeves' recording of his "One Bum Town" could be his biggest.

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Wilma Burgess, whose "Don't Touch Me" is gaining pop action, is vacationing in Orlando. Wilma says she used to live there, and knows places the tourists never find.

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Margie Bowes, who recently finished a German tour, says she had a couple of bad days over there with an unsteady tummy — seems the German food didn't quite suit her Tennessee temperament.

* * * * *

Charlie Walker recently flew over to Los Angeles during his Las Vegas stint at the Golden Nugget to tape an appearance on the Lloyd Thaxton show. Charlie says he enjoyed talking with the king of the rockers. Conversation reportedly centered on Nashville as a recording center.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS



Lovely Judy Lynn is pictured with three escorts—Slim Pickens, Lorne Greene and Nudie—at the recent Southern California C/W Academy Awards banquet at the Hollywood Paladium.

* * * * *

Leroy Van Dyke may have had it with horses after a western tour. He plays the Ada, Oklahoma Rodeo, followed by the Skyhigh Stampede in Colorado Aug. 3. The Rodeo is Aug. 2. Leroy is now in England recovering.

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Bill Anderson and The Carter Family recently played a series of dates in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, while Jim Edward Brown also played Canada's Horse-Shoe Club in Toronto.

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Mr. and Mrs. Del Reeves received that bundle they've been expecting—it turned out to be a 7-pound baby girl.

* * * * *

Wilma Burgess was one of the artists to appear on the first color-television Grand Ole Opry. She did the taping after a series of appearances in her native Florida.

* * * * *

Jan Howard, currently riding high with "Evil On Your Mind," says she enjoyed her appearance on Chicago's "American Swing-Around." Bobby Helms and Melba Montgomery worked the windy city's "Rivoli Club" at about the same time. Jan's appearance was May 9—Melba and Bobby's, May 13 and 14.

* * * * *

Grand Ole Opry entertainer Minnie Pearl will appear at the Circle Star Theater in San Carlos, Calif. May 31 to June 5. The comedienne will co-star in the six day series of dates with her friend and fellow entertainer, Tennessee Ernie Ford.

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Tentative plans for a new Nashville-based movie were announced by Vic Lewis, VP of Marathon Pictures. "The Ghost of Tin Pan Valley" will feature Billy Walker and will be a full length film in color.

* * * * *

The fabulous Jordanaires are currently on the sound tracks of 24 of the top 50 Country records in America. Although they may lack the fame, they're making a fortune singing background for all the top artists. Bass singer Ray Walker has a good solo style of his own, but is too busy making money to work at being a featured artist.

* * * * *

Jan Howard is the most surprised gal in Nashville these days since her new single "Evil on Your Mind" began getting top-40 radio play. Her husband Harlan, who wrote the song, says simply, "Jan sometimes underestimates her own talent."

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Don Bowman says he is glad this is 1966 instead of 1866—in April he performed in Shreveport one day, Chicago the next, and was on stage in London two days later. He is also thankful he isn't subject to air sickness.

* * * * *

Ferlin Husky is feeling like a schoolboy again. He was booked in four high school auditoriums on four consecutive days in April by agent Hubert Long.

* * * * *



Bill Carlisle visited the WGN TV Barn Dance as a special guest in April. He joined regulars Bob Atcher, "Red" Blanchard, Dolph Hewitt, Arkie, the Arkansas Woodchopper, the Johnson Sisters, Bob and Bobbie Thomas, Cousin Tilford and the Sage Riders for a wing-ding show. Bill sang three zany tunes that have so pleased C/W fans — "What Kind Of Deal Is This," "Too Old To Cut The Mustard" and, perhaps his most popular, "No Help Wanted."

* * * * *

Country Music's First Family....



The Queen of Country Music prefers a living room sofa to a "throne." Kitty is widely respected as a mother and homemaker by all who know her.

Kitty Wells and Johnny Wright



"Ole" - Johnny's yen for things South of the Border' is often reflected in his wearing apparel as well as in some of the songs he writes.

Kitty and Johnny

One of the tragedies of prosperity is that rather often individuals must sacrifice time with their families in order to finance the material needs of the family. Sad stories based on such complications can be found within the ranks of any profession, and unfortunately Country Music is no exception.

However, it is always heartwarming and inspirational to see a family become thoroughly involved, as well as tremendously successful in our music without damaging the integrity and harmony of their home. That's right. We're going to talk about the Wright family, for no family could be much more involved—or successful.

Johnny Wright, whose father and grandfather, respectively, were well known Middle Tennessee banjo and fiddle artists, was the product of a musical family and it was only natural for his own family to become an important part of Country Music. He got his start with his long time partner, the late Jack Anglin, and has acquired a position of prominence in the hearts of Country Music fans everywhere.

His wife Muriel, better known to the world of Country Music as Kitty Wells, started out as a part of the Johnny and Jack act some 30 years ago and has been the undisputed "Queen of Country Music" since her 1952 unseating of men at the top of Country popularity charts. Fourteen years later, Kitty Wells is still smashing record sales and box office records, as



"Southern Hospitality"—The Queen of Country Music is also Queen of the Kitchen at the Wright household. She's widely hailed as one of the best cooks in the Country circuit.



"Girl Friday" — Johnny's right hand "man" is Jean Stromatt, one of Music City's most popular executive secretaries. Here the twosome goes over the lyrics of a song recently penned by the household head.

is indicated by her current title of "Best Selling Female Country Artist" which was recently bestowed on her by the Record Rack jobbers of America (a group that ought to know!). She shares the title with Roger Miller in the male category.

Further proof of Kitty's stability in the changing tides of popularity is evidenced by the large number of her hit songs other female Country vocalists include in their repertoire because they know that people always want to hear the songs of Kitty Wells—even if she's not there to sing them.

As of this writing, the popular husband-wife duo both have songs riding high on the charts (Decca): Johnny with "Nickles, Quarters and Dimes" and Kitty with "A Woman Half My Age."

Booked by Moeller Talent Inc. of Nashville and composed of Johnny, Kitty, their daughter Ruby, Bill Phillips and The Tennessee Mountain Boys, "The Johnny Wright-Kitty Wells Show" travels far and frequently, making even more friends for the "Wright People." Despite their heavy personal appearance schedule, which is sometimes booked a year in advance, Johnny and Kitty typify the ideal family and conscientious citizenship.

A custom-built bus, with all the comforts of home, is used in their travels and the rigorous demands of the entertainment industry are not permitted to interfere with the harmonious atmosphere of the family. When not on the road, the Wrights are very much a part of the community life of Madison, Tennessee, and especially the work of the Madison Church of Christ.

Spearheading the recently-completed building program of the church, Johnny has properly earned the



One of the unique distinctions of Johnny and Kitty's Madison, Tennessee home is its indoor swimming pool. The 25-meter luxury item has heated water for year-round dipping, piped-in music and an inter-com system which connects each room of the house.

respect and friendship of the entire membership. Perhaps the most vivid account of his role in the religious circles of his community was made by a member of the Madison Church of Christ.

Preferring to remain anonymous, the fellow member told us of one incident which reveals Johnny's deep concern with better conditions for his fellow man: a mission in Chicago was in need of operating and construction funds, and Johnny, upon hearing of its plight, asked for support from the church membership to help raise these funds, joining into the contributing himself.

"If you really want to know about Johnny Wright," we were told, "talk with his brother-in-law. It won't do any good to ask Wright anything about himself—he's got his mind on other things."

Yes, the greatness of Country Music lies in the greatness of the personalities who sing and play it, and few people have contributed more than those "Wright People"—Johnny and Kitty—surely America's First Family of Country Music.



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CHET ATKINS



By FRANK HARRIS

A visit to Nashville always includes, as fully as schedules will permit, visits with our favorite citizens and stars of the Country Music Capitol. A recent trip paid full dividends for COUNTRY MUSIC LIFE as it provided an opportunity to visit with Chet Atkins.

Perhaps we should say "A rare opportunity to visit with Chet Atkins," because he is undoubtedly among the busiest people in the industry.

As manager of the Nashville Operations of RCA Victor and one of the most "in-demand" concert performers in the country, Chet doesn't begin to have as much time to chat with his many friends as he would like to. But when events at Victor do totter a tad, what does he talk about? Mostly other people and it's always to their credit.

A favorite topic of Chet's, naturally, is the guitar. He told us of a practice session in the RCA Victor studios several months ago with Don Gibson and Los Indios Trabajaros. An experiment in blending the techniques of the country vocalist and the Brazilian guitarists, this session attracted the attention of many of Nashville's top names and proved to be educational for all.

"One thing I learned from those Indian fellows," Chet recalls, "is that each country in South America has its own distinctive rhythms and moods for music. We tend to think of all of it as just 'Latin American Music' but a little study shows that it's all different. Admitting that he was careful to remember some of their licks, especially an Ecuadorian rhythm, for possible future use in an RCA Victor session, Chet discussed how the "Nashville Sound" is truly a blending together of many, many influences from all over the world.

His own distinctive "Gallopating Guitar" style, for example, is an innovation of the combined influence of Merle Travis, whom Chet is always quick to refer to as his favorite guitarist and for whom he named his daughter, and the great French Gypsy guitarist, Django Rhinehart.

Obviously realizing that he was quickly getting beyond our limits of knowledge with such technicalities as style comparisons of Rhinehart and Los Indios Chet turned to some interesting comments on two young RCA artists—Lorene Mann and Vernon Oxford.

Lorene's third release for Victor and Vernon's first reveal the talents of two youngsters deeply entrenched in the fine traditions of Country Music and we knew exactly what he was talking about this time. The long string of Country hits produced at Victor by Chet and Bob Ferguson testifies to the prominence of the company and the ability of the men.

Another person Chet likes to talk about is his brother-in-law, Jethro Burns, of the Homer and Jethro team. One of his favorite Jethro stories concerns the time Jethro met rock and roll singer Ray Stevens several years ago.

Jethro said, "Ray, would you believe that my boy is the biggest fan you've got?" Chet recalls. Ray said, "No foolin'?" and Jethro said, "Yeah, and that kid has memorized every word of 'Ahab the Arab' — even the hard words like 'doggie' and 'camel' " Ray said, "That's amazing, Jethro; how old is he?" and Jethro



said, "Twenty-three."

Chet's office in the Victor building reflects prosperity harnessed by good taste and a love for the grandeur of simplicity. This is true also of the beautiful Atkins home, which he and his wife Leona both admit to being a little quieter since daughter Merle is away at college. Obviously a close-knit family, they vividly remember a visit to England during which Merle had a telephone conversation with one of her favorite performers, George Harrison of the Beatles.

Thinking back on our visit with Chet, we can't help but come up with the conclusion that this man could have been an educator. His attitude is one of contemplation and his personality is one of communication. Yet, even more so, Chet Atkins is an entertainer, and indisputedly one of the world's greatest.



"Pre-Session Huddle" — As head of Nashville's Victor operations, Chet meets with Palito Ortega, known as "The Elvis Presley of Argentina" prior to an Ortega recording session in Victor's new studio. The Argentinean idol flew to Nashville especially to confer with Chet and to record with "The Nashville Sound."



"Not much, but we call it home." We needed a wide-angle lens to take in the spacious, modernistic Atkins manor in entirety. Highlights of the above abode include four bedrooms, three baths, den recreation room, "Two-Caddy" garage and a recording studio.

"Jackpot!"—Even the one-armed bandits throw winners Cbet's way. This touch of Las Vegas, confided the chief with a wink, has a tendency to "favor the house."

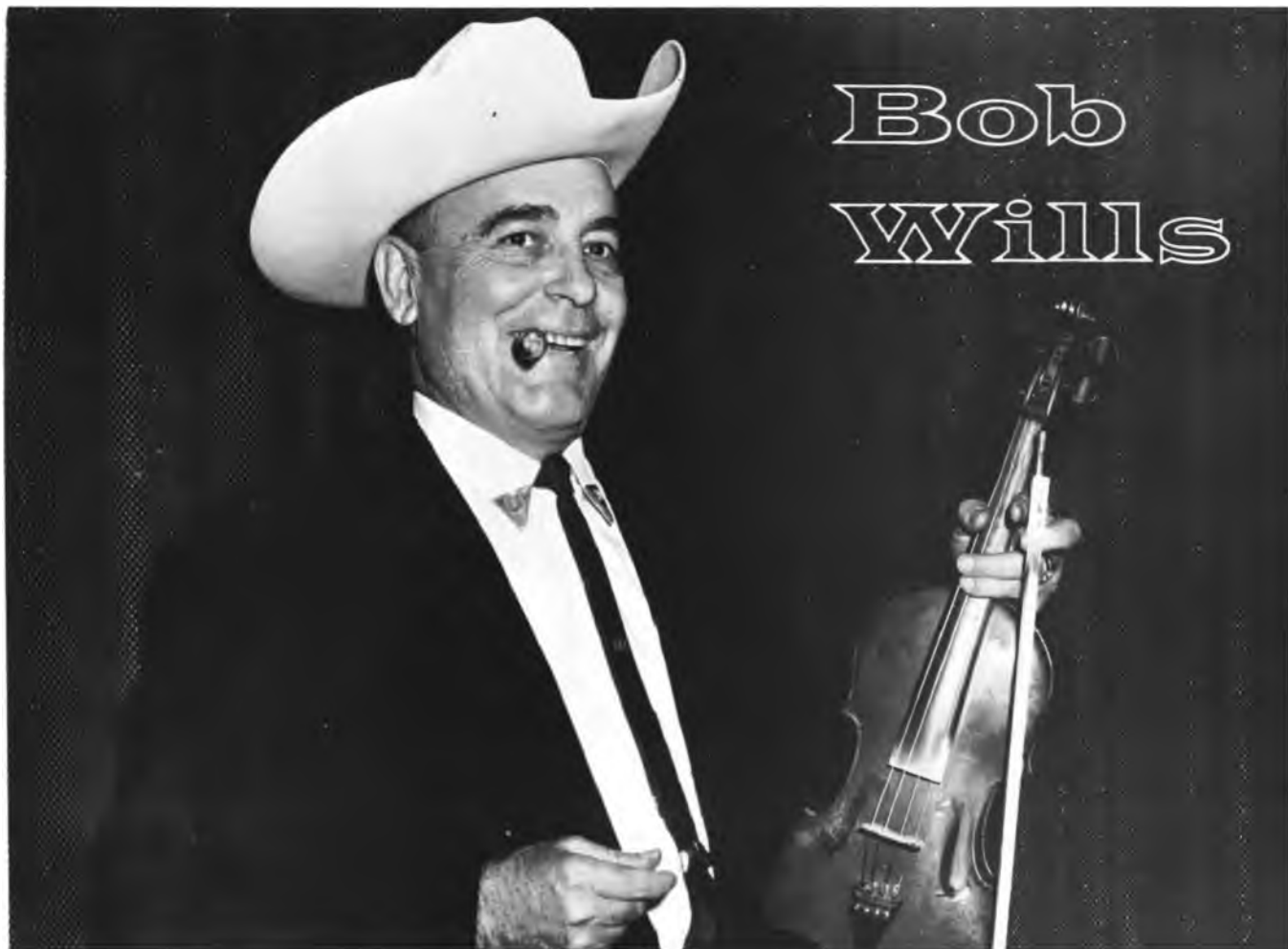




"Mystic Method"—Now we know how "The Nashville Sound" comes up with bit after bit after bit. Here its far-thinking leader and wife Leona "feel out the board" about a song's possibilities.



Chet's facial foliage gets a morning cropping with a pair of Leona's pinking shears, another Atkins innovation. "It's sort of awkward at first, but once you get the hang of it you can get a dandy trim."



By TEXAS JIM COOPER

He is called a legend in the history of Country Music — and it is true. He is the King of Western Swing — he is Bob Wills, a native of Hall County, Texas.

Perhaps best recalled for his beautiful "San Antonio Rose," Bob Wills is a third generation fiddle-player. His father, the son of a champion fiddler, taught Bob to play the fiddle and the teaching has paid off.

Bob Wills' writing ability has also been rewarding. Besides the million record seller so often recorded by other artists, "San Antonio Rose," Bob has penned the popular "New San Antonio Rose," "Faded Love," "Time Changes Everything," "Take Me Back To Tulsa," "Big Beaver," and "You Can't Break A Heart," among others. Since entering the field of music, Bob and his world-known Texas Playboys have cut some 1500 discs for MGM, Columbia, Decca, and Longhorn Records.

Bob Wills, also famous with his band for renditions of "Roly Poly," "My Confession," "Goodnight Little Sweetheart," "The Convict And The Rose," "Dusty Skies," "A Maiden's Prayer," "Home In San Antone," "Bubbles In My Beer," and "Steel Guitar Rag," has been a model for younger Country Western band-leading singers, like Houston born Leon McAuliff and Ray Price, another Texas native. It was while Leon, who later came into his own as leader of the Cimarron Boys, was with Bob's band that McAuliff composed

A legend in Country Music

"Steel Guitar Rag." And Ray Price, the Cherokee Indian from Perryville, Texas, has such strong admiration for Bob that the Wills touch is evident in the sound of his Cherokee Cowboys band.

Not too long ago Bob Wills was combating illness that could have been serious. But, as Longhorn Records owner Dewey Groom says, "Bob is getting along very good now... touring the West Coast now." In March, when Bob reached his sixtieth birthday, Groom gave a party in Wills' honor at the Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas and 2,000 persons attended. During the recent October Disc Jockey Convention in Nashville, Tenn., Bob Wills worked the Country Music Association dance Friday night, October 22, and was one of 70 nominees to the 1965 Country Music Hall of Fame. Also while in Nashville, Bob cut four records on the RIC label—two instrumentals and two with vocals by Leon Rausch and Joe Andrews.

Bob, in his time a song-supporter in musical Westerns, has come a long way since his boyhood days on the sweeping, wind-slashed plains of the Texas Panhandle. Whenever he and the talented Texas Playboys are performing, there is always a large crowd on hand to see them.

Yes, he is called a legend in the history of Country Music — and it is true. He is the King of Western Swing — he is native Texan Bob Wills.

JACK CLEMENT

Seeks New Sounds to Sell



There's a relatively new name on Record Row's fabled, but unwritten, list of "the right people to know." It's that of Jack Clement, a musical maverick with a growing reputation among the studio disc set as a "producer-engineer extraordinaire."

Clement's apprenticeship for the Nashville Sound is impressive. It began with such artists as Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins and Dickie Lee. This was followed up with an 18-month education working with Chet Atkins and then a move to Beaumont, Texas, where he began to produce records from his own studios.

Prior to this activity, he had acquired a degree from Memphis State University and an Honorable Discharge from the Marines.

Now established as a publisher and independent producer with offices in Nashville's RCA Victor Building, his past record is causing many artists to demand his services to produce present and future records. The Stonemans, whom he also serves as manager, and the Glaser Brothers have recently switched record labels in order to derive better benefits from his talents.

Innovation and diversification seem to be the key words in Clement's genius. He takes full advantage of all the influences upon today's music to achieve a blend of styles that has broader appeal than any one style. Looking forward to big things indeed for Country Music, Clement believes that getting into the pop market is an essential step. "College kids are picking up on such artists as Buck Owens and George Jones," he recognizes, "and it's a matter of their tastes evolving, pretty much the same way the Folk craze got started." Thus, a blend of Country, Folk, and Rhythm and Blues is a natural evolutionary process that, at this stage, could not be stopped and considering its potential commercial value, who wants to stop it?"

Clement's co-efforts with Bob Bean, in managing the growing popularity of The Stonemans, indicate another talent of the West Tennessean. Here is a traditional group with a modern sound—not folk in the hootenanny sense and not exactly Country in the bluegrass sense, despite their brilliant use of banjo and mandolin. The Stonemans are truly a blend of many things with their own exceptional talent and their tremendous success in initiating Nashville's Black Poodle to an all-Country format is proof that the sky is the limit to the appeal of well-managed Country Music.

Still other horizons are promised by Clement's piloting of the career of RCA's Charley Pride. This Montana-born Negro is the first of his race to attain such a place of prominence in the Country field, again demonstrating the adaptability of Country Music and the American culture.

Another area Clement is pursuing in order to achieve his anticipated "blend" is the writing and publishing field. His most recent success along this line is the Johnny Cash hit of "The One On The Right Is On The Left," a parody of what can happen by "mixing politics with folk songs of our land." However, it is an established fact that a lot of things *will* mix with our folk songs, and Jack Clement plans to continue as a major force in the growth and commercial development of this musical blend as more artists seek out and utilize his talents.

NASHVILLE MOVIES

By RUTH CHARON

It was predicted several years ago that Nashville would become an important locale for movie making. Hardly a day passes in this office when a Country artist doesn't call reporting that he is working in a movie—Nashville based. The evidence is here like a giant neon sign: "The swing is in and Music City has a growing, new industry."

Producer Ron Ormond of Hollywood says, "As a third U.S. movie capitol, it will take years—but a slow, gradual foundation building guarantees a reliable product. Acting schools, skilled technicians, wardrobe houses and associated arts take time to build—and bold workers are taking sure-footed strides."

Some of these workers include the Ormond organization family, with his wife, June who writes and co-produces, and son Tim who is becoming a fine actor. They have transferred their residence to Nashville, planning a full schedule of about three films a year.

Ormond has just completed "Girl From Tobacco

movie making home? They love the friendly, artistic atmosphere to work in—where the pressure is low. The super sound facilities where commercial filming has been done for years ... a variety of climate and scenery (the Florida seacoast is just hours away) ... a wealth of natural talent from which to build movie personalities, such as Earl Richards, in whom they see a "Tennessee Sean Connery" or "Country Jimmy Cagney."

We will report in future issues on more of the locally produced movies: "Las Vegas Hillbilly," starring Jayne Mansfield and Ferlin Huskey; "Music City U.S.A." starring Hillous Buttrum and many of the Opry stars; "The Road To Nashville" starring Richard Arlen, Marty Robbins and Doodles Weaver. Already in the final planning stage are several movies to be made here in June and August. With Opry stars taking acting lessons from Vic Lewis, Jo Coulter's movie make-up studio, and Kitty Wells ready to do some real acting—we have a lot to look forward to seeing!

The Ormonds—June and Ron—work as a team to turn out pictures; both direct, produce and are more or less a combined unit, as they both have been performers for many years. Where they started out on Broadway as an act working together doing a comedy, song and dance act, like Burns and Allen. June has quite a heritage in show business, but that is another story which perhaps we might pursue later. The Ormonds have turned out some 60 pictures for Twentieth Century producer Robert L. Lippert. Among them are "Rimfire," "Square Dance Jubilee," "Yes, Sir Mr. Bones," "Hollywood Varieties," "Outlaw Women," "Red Desert," and many others, most of which are now shown on TV. They have their own movie company and also have national distribution on a picture they made in Nashville, "Forty Acre Feud," starring Minnie Pearl, Ferlin Husky and many other country music stars. Their picture, "Girl From Tobacco Row," is one of the first Gospel Music pictures to hit the motion picture market. Martha Carson sings in this picture one of her favorite gospel songs, along with Smiley and Kitty Wilson. In November of this year the Ormonds have contracted with Homer and Jethro to do a full length comedy picture, down to earth and rural, similar to the type of Ma & Pa Kettle. This picture will be titled "Where There's A Will" — there must be a way with Homer & Jethro.

Row," starring Tex Ritter who returns to the screen after 15 years and plays a dramatic, tobacco farming, preacher. The film is in color, full dialogue, with room for a few songs by acting country stars. Ormond also has a distributing company serving the U.S., including "The Lash La Rue" series. "Tobacco Row" is the 107th movie by the Ormonds and their history in show business has included many facets: theater management, tabloid shows, music and choreography. We are indeed fortunate to have the Ormonds in Nashville, since their know-how will eliminate much time in trial and error.

In addition to Tex Ritter, the cast of "Tobacco Row" includes: Earl Richards, Rachel Roman, Gordon Terry, Rita Faye, Tim Ormond, Ralph Emery, Johnny Russell, Walter Haynes, Howard White, Ed Livingston, Dean Turner and Cecil Scaife. Set designer is Bill Gernert.

Why do the Ormonds choose Nashville as their

Some quizzical souls will ask, "Isn't there a lull in the movie industry? Hasn't television captured audiences? Don't teenagers control the theater and drive-in cinema trade?" Well, maybe so, but progress finds new fields for every profession, as many of the Hollywood studios have transformed into TV production—as Desilu, so can we. The multi-faceted film and sound industry have taken over, what with Telstar satellites relaying broadcasts 'round the world; there is no limit to the future plans to be accomplished. Stockholders need not worry. As the popular trend is toward Country Music, other eyes are trained on Nashville. Quote Kitty Wells, Ralph Emery and Johnny Russell, "We would love to do serious acting; along with our Country Music careers, or after they fade."

Similar statements came from CBS Network TV stars who appeared on WLAC TV for the Nashville mayor's election party. Frank Sutton (Sgt. Carter in "Gomer Pyle") stated in an interview with this re-



Rachel Romen is met at airport by June Ormond, associate producer of "Girl From Tobacco Row." Miss Romen is under contract with 20th Century Fox and was loaned to Ormonds for this movie.

Tex Ritter, star of "Girl From Tobacco Row," is made up by June Ormond, while Rita Faye observes in background.



Ron Ormond, director, relaxes with Tex Ritter, who portrays country preacher in "Girl From Tobacco Row." Premier will be July 20 at Preston Drive-In Theater in Louisville.





Reformed "Snake" (Earl Richards) goes over lines before Rita Faye and Ralph Emery as camera man waits in background, arms folded.



Ron, June and Tim Ormond with Earl "Snake" Richards studying script for next "take."



Ruth, Rachel, Rita and Earl study scripts during lunch hour for square dancing scene.



Star Earl (Snake) Richards, Ruth Charon and June (Mrs. Ron) Ormond, at the barn shoot-out scene, looking over the script.



Lunch prepared on the set by Jean Matthews and June Ormond, as Gordon goes on shooting before the cameras.

porter, "Nashville is my home and I have always known it held wonderful possibilities for the future. Gomer and I both read 'Country Music Life'." Said Barbara Hale (Perry Mason's secretary) at WLAC and over the phone, "Of course, this is home to me, since I grew up in Kentucky, and I would love to see it grow into a movie capitol so very close to my family. With the Perry Mason series coming to a tearful end after nine years, my husband, Bill Williams ("Kit Carson"), and I are taking a leisurely train trip back home to participate in our first family reunion. Our film careers have always kept us from this; now with a lull, I want to be a real 'mommy,' and take part in these country, down-to-earth activities." Barbara's daughter Jody is at Arizona U. in Tucson and her other two children are with friends in Hollywood.

Who knows—our new film capitol might draw stars like these. The potential is undefinable. Barbara



The big fight scene from "Girl From Tobacco Row." Gordon Terry, sheriff, approaches to break up Walter Haynes, Earl Richards and Ralph Emery as Tim Ormond tries to stop the struggle.



Walter Haynes and Ralph Emery—playing "hoods" in the movie, turn guns on each other as they practice for their death scenes filmed that day.



Ron and June Ormond as they watch crew filming "Girl From Tobacco Row."



Ralph Emery, big city hood, makes up to Tex's flirty (!) daughter, Rachel Romen, at the festival.



Ralph Emery, Rachel Romen, Ron Ormond and Tim, between takes, at Riverwood Riding Stables.

said that producer Gail Patrick gave everyone on the set a line in the final episode of the Perry Mason series, "Final Fadeout." There were so many departure tears that they could barely make it. This is the way it is in the show business family.

Barbara's husband, Bill Williams, told me, "I was slow in show business for a while. Now in real estate and construction I am building a nest egg for my family's future." Believe me, they can never stop. I saw him in a "Batman" Penguin series this week.

Bob Crane ("Hogans' Heroes," Emmy award nominee) told me, "I am not connected with Country Music, but, man, you have a great active group here."

The Capitol Record Building, the new multi-million dollar C/W motel, and the Country Music Hall of Fame are more evidences of the faith of financiers and the



Gordon demonstrates fast draw technique to on-looker Jerry Reed of RCA Victor Records. (He is husband of Prissie Mitchell who duets with Roy Drusky).



June, Gordon and Sid look on after Walter has been shot by Gordon. Large square is aluminum reflector to produce light from sun.

local populace in the growth of this music-film area. When we first visited Jo Walker at the Country Music Association, she did all the CMA work; now two secretaries are not enough.

So just keep looking toward Nashville. With Elvis, Ricky Nelson, Burl Ives, Perry Como and Pa Cartwright recording here, you can expect every possible show business activity to evolve from our city. Producer of "The Road To Nashville," Owen Bradley states, "It falls as a natural sequence that this recording-sound capitol will be a future film capitol, since California is becoming so crowded for real estate." He will produce at least three films a year in Music City. Owen's brother, Charlie Bradley, at Columbia Records, says, "The trend started at Owens' Barn and Trafco Studios some time ago for Opry and other commercial films."



Cameraman Sid O'Berry lines up the lens shots as June Ormand makes up gangster Walter Haynes. Tim Ormand in background.



Scene from the film as hoods Ralph Emery and Ron Ormand shove Carl Richards to the barn at gunpoint.



Producer Ron Ormund, Gordon Terry and technician Bob Long at the end of a day's filming.

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Don & Helen

The Long and the Short Of It!

By BEA & RED WILCOX

Up in the area known affectionately as "The Pennsylvania Dutch Country," there is one name that stands out in Country Music. On second thought, mention almost any style of music—from a Broadway musical to the classics — and the name *Shorty Long* keeps cropping up. Undoubtedly here is a man who has done everything.

Shorty Long, born Emido Vagnoni, started his career in music playing the violin. That's right . . . violin, not fiddle. He was not just another child entertaining mother's friends in the parlor..he studied and was graduated with the highest honors from the Conservatory of Music in Rome, Italy. A very promising future as a concert violinist was assured, but somewhere along the line Shorty heard a "country fiddle" — and loved it!

The difference between a violin and a fiddle is very simple. One can become the other by a few turns on the pegs that tune the strings; but the heart strings of parents and the best teachers in the world, were not so easy to change to the new tuning. In short, Shorty Long became a "hillbilly fiddler" and broke many of the hearts of those who were close to him. Still, the young man persisted.

Shorty started out with the Hayloft Hoedown on station WFIL, Philadelphia. Here he became proficient on the accordion and also sang. From there, he became a lead singer with the Foy Willing Trio on The Andrews Sisters' "Eight To the Bar Ranch Show" on WLS in Chicago. Another young singer with the show — Red Foley — and Shorty became life long friends.

Shorty also met a girl singer with the group, and his eyes opened wide when he saw this dark haired, green-eyes beauty—and they were soon married. Today Mrs. Dolly Long is a star in her own right, singing under the professional name, Cindy Owens. She was listed in the official *Cash Box* polls for 1964 as one of the "most promising female vocalists of the year."

With such musical parents, it is not surprising that their three sons would learn music. Barry, the eldest, is an accomplished drummer and part of the Long's group—The Sante Fe Rangers. Phil, next in line, plays the organ. David is still young and hasn't as yet chosen an instrument, but his selection is varied. Besides the fiddle and accordion, Shorty plays the organ, piano, vibro-harp and guitar! There is also a little grand-daughter—Barry's daughter.

As much as Shorty loved Country Music—and he was a pioneer in it—it was a new business. Supporting a family on his earnings was hard and times were pretty lean. When Shorty's big break came, it wasn't in Country Music; it was the comic lead in the Broadway musical, "Most Happy Fella." Columbia Records made an album of the sound track and two of the hit songs in it were Shorty's—"Standing On The Corner Watching All The Girls Go By" and "Big D" (Dallas). As part of the original cast of the play he appeared on the "Tonight Show" and later, on the Ed Sullivan Show. That particular night was also the first appearance of Elvis Presley on that show.

While appearing on Broadway, Shorty was also working as assistant A&R man at RCA Victor Records with Steve Sholes.

After the successful run on Broadway and a hit record in the pop field, Shorty could have pursued a career in musical comedy. His potential was excellent but once again, he chose Country Music.

Today, after many ups and downs, Country Music has come into its own and Shorty is still in there pitching. There is no phase of Country Music that he and Dolly—and Shorty's brother Lou—are not involved with in some way.

Shorty and Lou are the promoters of almost all the big shows playing in Eastern Pennsylvania. He handles the Emcee chores, provides the house band, creates the humor, and sings to his own accompaniment. Dolly sings with the group too. Lou Long does everything from selling tickets at the door to occasionally playing the organ on the shows.

The enterprising Long brothers own two music and record stores—one in Pottstown and the other in Allentown, Pa. They live in Reading, Pa. where a C/M park has operated successfully for a number of years. This summer they are opening another—Ontelaunee Park in New Tripoli, Pa. Shorty is a licensed songwriter by BMI (writing for Mamy Music) and has two record companies—L&S and Sante Fe Records. He is DJ for WPAZ in Pottstown, Pa. and stars with Dolly on a remote show done from their record shop over WSAN.

Shorty, who has an amazing resemblance to actor Ernest Borgnine, provides all the humor and keeps everybody in good spirits (without any "spirits"). He never seems to run down, even during the wee hours after the second show, and everybody else is thinking about going home to bed.

He has helped many people in the C/W business, and these reporters know of some, but Shorty deftly avoids the question, saying, "We don't talk about those things."

This then, is Shorty Long—from concert violinist, through television and the Broadway stage, to what he likes best. In Country Music he is truly "A Most Happy Fella."

Shorty Long and The Sante Fe Rangers.



Be Sure To See...



Lee Rose

Submitted by **CONNIE KAY BELL**
& **CAROL ANN KLOCKOW**

May I take this opportunity to introduce "Mr. Personality," Lee Rose. Lee has been in the C/W field for a long time. He got his start in the late 1940's and early 1950's when he did solo work on station KCIJ in Shreveport, La. performing twice daily. Lee also did many alternate spots on the great Louisiana Hayride and worked on the road with many great artists. Many of these artists are well established, namely Hank Williams, Sr., Jack and Johnnie and the Tennessee Mountain Boys, Kitty Wells, Slim Whitman, Claude King and long standing friend "Giddy Up Go" Red Sovine. Lee has worked in many parts of the country on radio, TV and stage.

This very congenial gentleman stands 6' 1", has blue eyes and blonde hair and was born in the heart of East Texas, living now in Henderson, Texas. He is liked and admired by both the general public and other artists as a "good guy." Lee does C/W shows throughout the South and makes guest appearances on various TV shows.

This will introduce to you a young man who, once you've heard him sing, needs no further introduction at all, Jim Parker.

Jim was leader of the famed "Shenandoah Valley Boys" for a period of three years. Prior to that, he was active in high school bands, entertaining at all school functions. He was "booked" solid with Uncle Sam for three years where he worked with various groups, wrote songs and spent a year emceeing the "Dixie Drifters" in Germany. His army career behind him, Jim returned home and spent the next two years in college and doing some serious song writing.

He was given a one year recording contract with Country Jubilee Records in 1960 and released a song called "I Dreamed," which he wrote with Jean Hyde. This record hit the Top 50 in the Country field. In 1962 he released his first for Fannin Records and just as the record started breaking the Country market wide open, Jim was involved in a serious automobile accident and out of circulation for two years — calling a halt to what had been a bright future for the record and the young man.

Then in March 1964 Jim returned to entertaining and had the first release of his "second" career put before the public in October 1965, a Fannin Record "Bottle of Forget" b/w "Gray Clouds," and with this disc riding the charts in many areas, the skies are once again rosy and the future bright for Jim Parker, a young man in a hurry . . . for a long run in Country Music.

Jim Parker



Be Sure To See...

Ray Coble

Ray was born August 18, 1934 in Jonesboro, Ark., the first of four sons for Harry and Eva Coble. As a "depression baby," Ray soon discovered there is only one way to come out on top — hard work.

Ray spent four years as a seaman in the U. S. Navy. During a tour of duty in the Far East, he helped to develop Japanese C/W singers, who in turn made an influence on him, which is interestingly evident in his recordings.

He is now appearing in the Memphis Tri-state area, besides guest shooting on seven mid-south TV stations and performing weekly on KAIT-TV in Jonesboro Arkansas.



The Brown Sisters



By WINONA VADEN

"The Singing Brown Sisters" are earning state and national fame for their home town, Moody, Texas.

Their recent record on TRC label is being played on many top country and western radio shows, as well as on gospel music programs. One side features an old beloved spiritual number, while the other side is a country and western written by the sister team — Bettie, Bobbie and Elizabeth, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Brown of Moody.

The girls started singing thirteen years ago when the youngest, Elizabeth, was only four. Since then they have appeared on national broadcast radio and television shows in Texas, Tennessee and Louisiana. They were special guests of the 1964 World's Fiddlers Contest.

They have appeared with Hank Thompson and the Brazos Valley Boys, Hank Williams Jr., Marion Worth, Johnny Paycheck, Tony Douglas, Ernest Tubb, Buck Owens, Link Davis, Ray Price, Hank Cochran and numerous other top country and western artists on the Brazos Valley Jamboree and the KAWA Spectacular at the Heart O' Texas Coliseum in Waco, Texas. The trio have also appeared a number of times at the East Texas Haybarn at Sheppard, Texas, as well as the Big D Jamboree in Dallas, Texas.

"The Singing Brown Sisters" are fast becoming one of the most popular country and western groups in Texas.

WHERE THE STARS ARE SHINING

BILL ANDERSON & THE PO' BOYS	JUNE	WANDA JACKSON		Hartford, Conn.	19
Opry	4	Odessa, Tex.	2	New Bedford, Mass.	20
Columbus, O.	5	Amarillo, Tex.	3		
Pasadena, Tex.	10	Stonewall, Okla.	10	RED SOVINE	
Hearne, Tex.	11	Tulsa, Okla.	11	Shreveport, La.	4
Odessa, Tex.	12	Enid, Okla.	17	Sturgis, S. D.	10
Hagerstown, Md.	16	Ft. Worth, Tex.	18	Dupree, S. D.	11
Martinsville, Va.	17	Houston, Tex.	22	Dickerson, Md.	19
Opry	18	NORMA JEAN		Manlius, N. Y.	25
Hartford, Mich.	19	Culpepper, Va.	5	Winchester, Va.	26
Hampton, S. C.	24	Shreveport, La.	11		
Opry	25	WAYLON JENNINGS		MARY TAYLOR	
Anderson, Ind.	26	Sayre, Ohio	5	Safford, Ariz.	4
ERNIE ASHWORTH		Buffalo, N. Y.	20-25	Milwaukee, Wis.	11
Columbus, O.	5	Montreal, Quebec	27-30	Reno, Nev.	17-18
Sayre, O.	19	GRANDPA JONES		HANK THOMPSON	
CARL & PEARL BUTLER		Memphis, Tenn.	4	Albuquerque, N. M.	1-2
Greenville, O.	4	Manlius, N. Y.	18	Luke AFB, Ariz.	3
Cold Water, O.	5	Reeds Ferry, N. H.	19	Window Rock, Ariz.	4
Buchanan, W. Va.	10	GEORGE MORGAN		Wichita, Kans.	11
Anderson, Ind.	12	Memphis, Tenn.	4	Reno, Nev.	17-18
Reinholds, Pa.	18	Culpepper, Va.	12	MERLE TRAVIS	
Kempton, Pa.	19	Toronto, Ont., Canada	13-18	Memphis, Tenn.	4
Charleston, W. Va.	24	State Line, Pa.	19	Florence, Ky.	11
Knoxville, Tenn.	25	Europe	30	Murray, Ky.	18
Sayre, O.	26	MINNIE PEARL		Columbus, Ohio	19
ARCHIE CAMPBELL		San Carlos, Calif.	1-5	Portland, Ore.	24
Columbus, O.	3	Knoxville, Tenn.	10	Seattle, Wash.	25
Buffalo, N. Y.	4	Florence, Ky.	11	JUSTIN TUBB	
Rochester, N. Y.	5	Oakdale, Wis.	12	Greenville, Ohio	4
London, Ont., Canada	6	Reno, Nev.	17-18	Cold Water, Ohio	5
Kitchener, Ont., Canada	8	Sacramento, Calif.	19	St. Cloud, Minn.	7-12
Montreal, Que., Canada	9	Nashville, Tenn.	21	Benton, Pa.	24
New York, N. Y.	10	CARL PERKINS		PORTER WAGONER	
Brooklyn, N. Y.	11	Minneapolis, Minn.	1-4	Panama City, Fla.	1
Newark, N. J.	12	WEBB PIERCE		Montgomery, Ala.	3
Allentown, Pa.	14	Shreveport, La.	4	Columbus, Ga.	4
Ottawa, Ont., Canada	15	Florence, Ky.	11	Evansville, Ind.	12
Toronto, Ont., Canada	16-17	Atlanta, Ga.	19	Allentown, Ohio	16
Boston, Mass.	18	Houston, Tex.	25	Columbus, Ohio	19
Hartford, Conn.	19	MAX POWELL		McMinnville, Tenn.	24
ROY CLARK		Florence, Ky.	11	Franklin, Ohio	26
Milwaukee, Wis.	11	DEL REEVES		BILLY WALKER	
Reno, Nev.	17-18	Angola, Ind.	5	Columbus, Ga.	4
JIMMY DICKENS		Reinholds, Pa.	11	Miami, Okla.	11
Pensacola, Fla.	2	West Grove, Pa.	12	DOTTIE WEST	
Memphis, Tenn.	4	Rockford, Ill.	18	Columbus, Ohio	3
Alexandria, Va.	10	Hartford, Mich.	26	Buffalo, N. Y.	4
Gerry, N. Y.	11	GEORGE RIDDLE		Rochester, N. Y.	5
Culpepper, Va.	12	Montreal, Que., Canada	1-5	London, Ont., Canada	6
Cullman, Ala.	18	DOLORES SMILEY		Kitchener, Ont., Canada	8
Atlanta, Ga.	19	Florence, Ky.	11	Montreal, Que., Canada	9
Oklahoma City, Okla.	24-26	CARL SMITH		Ottawa, Ont., Canada	10
Georgetown, Tex.	30	Baltimore, Md.	4	Scranton, Pa.	11
DUKE OF PADUCAH		Mechanicksburg, Pa.	5	Newark, N. J.	12
Baltimore, Md.	4	Milwaukee, Wis.	11	Allentown, Pa.	14
Culpepper, Va.	5	Columbus, Ohio	12	Troy, N. Y.	15
Miami, Okla.	11	Shreveport, La.	18	Toronto, Ont., Canada	16-17
Murray, Ky.	18	Toronto, Canada	23	York, Pa.	18
Sayre, Ohio	19	Seattle, Wash.	25	Hartford, Conn.	19
Montreal, Quebec	20-26	HANK SNOW		WILLIS BROTHERS	
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HARDEN TRIO		Smith Falls, Ont., Canada	7	Dickerson, Md.	5
Chicago, Ill.	3-4	Kitchener, Ont., Canada	8	Blocker, Ind.	18
Huntington, W. Va.	10-12	Montreal, Que., Canada	9	Columbus, Ohio	19
Monticello, Ill.	26	Ottawa, Ont., Canada	10	FARON YOUNG	
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HOMESTEADERS		Newark, N. J.	12	Reinholds, Pa.	4
Bell, Mo.	3-4	Allentown, Pa.	14	Culpepper, Va.	5
Murray, Ky.	18	Troy, N. Y.	15	Chicago, Ill.	10
Toronto, Ont., Canada	20-25	Toronto, Ont., Canada	16-17	Youngstown, Ohio	11
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