

jamboree

U.S.A.

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

40-

40th Anniversary
1933 - 1973



40th ANNIVERSARY JAMBOREE BOOK COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY:
VIRGINIA ALDERMAN

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Glenn Reeves

Jamboree Director

Dear Jamboree Fan:

As we happily celebrate this 40th anniversary of Jamboree broadcasting, we like to look back across these four decades and reminisce, ever aware that the tremendous success the Jamboree enjoys today was shaped and built upon the faith, devotion and determination of the many entertainers and fans who sought to help country music earn its rightful place in the American

musical scene. Their foresight was unerring; their labors fruitful and we enjoy today the rewards of their achievements.

Here, on these pages, you will find pictures and stories that highlight and span the colorful years of Jamboree history. If you're a long time friend of the Jamboree, this book will bring back precious memories for you, and if there's a tug at the heartstrings, that's good! For we know then we have faithfully recaptured the true spirit that is the Jamboree.

If you're a newcomer to the Jamboree, these pages will help acquaint you with the treasured days gone by, the people and places that add up to forty wonderful years of Jamboree broadcasting. And it will also help you understand the sentiment, bordering on reverence, that many hold today for this country music show that has so profoundly influenced America's musical tastes.

We hope you enjoy this fortieth anniversary book, and in years to come, it will take its place as a treasured keepsake, along with the memories you have of your visit to the Jamboree.

Glenn Reeves,

JAMBOREE DIRECTOR



Country Music . . . A Profile

Only Americans can claim country music solely as their own. It is a music born of this country and its hardworking, plain-living people, that laboring backbone of our populace that makes up the heart of America.

Down from the mountains and up from the valleys, drawn from the farms, the fields and heartlands of America, emerged country music, hauntingly beautiful in its simplicity of style and lyric. Here, set to music, is the story of a rural people, their joys and sorrows, their lives, loves and struggles.

Deep emotional ties bound these folk one to another. Basically uncomplicated in their life-style and beliefs, so followed the pattern of their music.

Humble at birth, born of a need to tell a story, simply and directly, country music has pulled itself up by its own bootstraps to become a dominating force in today's American musical scene. To keep pace with the trends, it has been appropriately dubbed the 'modern country sound.'

But it's all there. Cotton fields, lonesome highways, or beckoning railroad, mountain homes or river boats, empty pockets, empty hearts, all of man's loves or ambitions or broken dreams have been told in the words of a country music song. The old-fashioned message is timeless; only the wrapping is new.

Country music. Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow. It is America, her people and their story, timeless and enduring.

Jamboree History

“Live! From the stage of the Capitol Music Hall in Wheeling, West Virginia, it’s Jamboree U.S.A., coming to you over 50,000 watt WWVA!”

To the thousands of Jamboree and country music fans in 18 eastern states and six Canadian provinces, this familiar Saturday night greeting means it’s time once again for one of America’s oldest and most beloved weekly radio broadcasts. For the WWVA Jamboree U.S.A. is now in it’s 40th year, growing bigger and better than ever; still bringing joy and inspiration to the hearts of the many who have grown up with its music and every year winning new fans who are drawn by the beat, by the message that Buck Owens says “is a music born of this country . . . American music . . . , the only true artistically musical contribution to the world that Americans can claim solely as their own.”

This then, is country music, and in this shifting fastpaced world of ours, this country music, along with WWVA Radio and its world-famous Jamboree, remains an unchanging ‘constant.’ Yesterday’s musical memory is today’s musical happening; a token of the past with us yet, and while its style may have undergone a slight change (we now refer to it as “the modern country sound”) its appeal and its message still reach out to touch and influence today’s way of life.

The Jamboree was first broadcast on January 7, 1933 from the studios of WWVA. Radio managing director George W. Smith outlined the format for this first Jamboree in an effort to program something special for the Saturday night listeners of the 5,000 watt station.

At 11 PM that January Saturday night, the first Jamboree went on the air featuring Ginger, Snap and Sparky, Howard Donohoe, Elmer Crowe, Felix Adams, Paul Miller, Willard Spoon, George Kanute, Jimmy Lively, Eddie Barr, Sherlock and Tommy, the Tweedy Brothers and Fred Craddock.

Following that first broadcast, listener response was so tremendous, with many requesting tickets to see the show, a decision was made to move the Jamboree to the Capitol Theatre. It opened there on April 1, 1933 with 3,266 people and another thousand turned away from the ‘full house.’

On November 11, 1933 two new entertainers were introduced on the Jamboree, two who

were destined to become mighty popular with the fans; Cowboy Loye and Just Plain John. Their homespun style of singing and chatting appealed to the listeners and this brought about a major change in Jamboree programming style. The Inquiring Mike was another attraction added to the program that year, and the folks who had traveled many miles to see the Jamboree just loved the chance to say ‘Hi’ to the folks back home.

During 1934, the Jamboree made two moves, one to the Victoria Theatre and then to the Virginia Theatre, but these proved to be wholly inadequate at accommodating the crowds and on May 19, 1934, the Jamboree returned to the Capitol Theatre.



Hugh Cross

During 1934 and 1935, several new entertainers were added to the Jamboree cast. There was Hugh Cross, the Smokey Mountain Boy, Blaine Smith, Jack Young, Paul Myers, accordion player Fred Gardini (employed yet today by WWVA Radio as an engineer) and Shug Fisher, the latter a name that’s well-known today. Gertrude Miller was one of the early



Big Slim



Grandpa Jones



Shug Fisher



Doc Williams and The Border Riders.

Jamboree stars, winning a First Timers Audition in Sept. 1934. Silver Yodlin' Bill Jones was another favorite with the fans then and, as Pid Hawkins, he drew plenty of laughs with his uproarious silent comedy routine.

By February 1936, the Jamboree had moved and settled down in the Wheeling Market Auditorium and here the informal atmosphere found favor with both entertainer and fan. Seated on folding chairs, eating snacks as they enjoyed the show, fans reveled in the casual, homey, intimate informality.

Saturday night Jamboree broadcasts were temporarily interrupted in March 1936 when Wheeling was stricken by the big flood that reached a crest of 55.6 feet on St. Patrick's Day. The Market Auditorium was called into service as temporary housing for flood victims and it wasn't until April 4th before Jamboree broadcasting was resumed.

An all-time attendance record for the Jamboree was reached on August 22, 1936 when 5,000 fans jammed the grandstands at the Wheeling High School football stadium for the first outdoor Jamboree.

Many entertainers won the hearts of fans on those early Jamboree shows. Most have dropped out of sight over the years, while a few, like Grandpa Jones and Shug Fisher, (Shug has appeared on *The Beverly Hillbillies* and *Gunsmoke* TV series) are still going strong today. One group, which joined the Jamboree in 1937 and whose name is synonymous with great Jamboree style entertainment, is still performing on the Saturday night shows, chalking up 36 years of wholesome, family-style entertainment. It's Doc Williams and The Border Riders, and through the years, this one group, due to their extensive personal appearance tours, has done more than any other to promote the Jamboree.

It was this same year that Big Slim, the Lone Cowboy, joined Doc and his group, later going on to become one of the best-known and loved of Jamboree entertainers. In addition to his singing, Slim entertained with a unique Australian bullwhip act, rope tricks and even had his trick horse on stage for one Jamboree show. He made many personal appearances, doing trick riding and delighted the audience with a routine using his talented clown mules.

More than four years of Jamboree shows had rolled by when the fall of 1937 turned up on the calendar and audience attendance at the Jamboree was really growing. On one Saturday in October 1937, more than 7,000 fans poured into Wheeling and the Market Auditorium for the Jamboree shows, but when it was found the two scheduled shows could not accommodate the throngs of fans, three more shows were added and Jamboree fans and entertainers were still going strong at two in the morning!

By January 1939, Jamboree attendance had reached the half-million mark, solid proof of the show's ever-growing popularity. Three months later, the first 'on tour' Jamboree took to the road, drawing 19,464 fans in towns in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

This last year of the thirties also saw the initial appearance on the Jamboree of Stoney Cooper and Wilma Lee, who joined the show as members a then-popular group, The Leary Family. When The Leary Family left the Jamboree, Stoney and Wilma did also, returning to the Jamboree in mid-1947 with their own band, The Clinch Mountain Clan, and they went on to reach great heights of popularity with Jamboree fans.

When World War II came along in December 1941, it brought about many changes in Jamboree programming. The 'Inquiring Mike' routine was discontinued, replaced by a song-fest and many of the Jamboree entertainers were called to service. To keep things rolling, the Jamboree girls took over the feature spots and artists like Shirley Barker, Millie Wayne, Honey Davis and Sunflower did their hard-working best to keep the country music show going from week to week.

Another entertainer was introduced to Jamboree audiences that year, one who continued for many years to be a big Jamboree favorite. Fans will long remember blind accordionist Marion Martin, a fine musician who became a member of Doc Williams' Border Riders.

It was during 1941 that a beloved comic, one who delights and amuses audiences today, made his debut on the Jamboree stage. That "King of Country Comics," Crazy Elmer brought laughter and light comedy to the Jamboree show and audiences ever since have come to love the baggy-suited comedian with his country humor and slapstick routines.



Stoney Cooper and Wilma Lee



Jamboree Girls



Marion Martin



Crazy Elmer

We're now up to 1942. The war was on but the Jamboree continued to broadcast every Saturday night, a tradition thousands of loyal fans had come to depend on. A darkhaired, talented young accordianist joined the show that year and everyone remembers Monty 'Murphy' Blake who joined Curly Miller's Plough Boys, replacing Sonny Day. Monty remained through 1966 as a popular entertainer, when he left the stage to work behind it as stage manager, a position he holds today.

But drastic changes, due to the war, were inevitable and on December 12, 1942, the last Jamboree show for the duration was presented. By that time, a total of 930,339 fans had come to Wheeling to attend the Jamboree.

On October 2, 1943, WWVA was granted a power increase to 50,000 watts and with this, a whole new eastern U.S. and Canadian market of listeners could now tune in the Jamboree.

During the years 1943 to 1945, the Jamboree continued broadcasting over the air, although no theatre or public shows were presented.

And then the war ended. WWVA Radio and Jamboree men began returning, new people joined the show and on July 13, 1946, the Jamboree once again began presenting its public performances. The first post-war Jamboree opened triumphantly in the Virginia Theatre, located on 12th Street in downtown Wheeling. Lew Clawson was Jamboree Master of Ceremonies, the shows were truly "better than ever" and Saturday night capacity crowds outside the Virginia Theatre soon became recognized as a Jamboree trademark.



Jamboree returns to theater production July 13, 1946 in the Virginia Theater.

A lot of names come to mind when we think back to those days, people like Texas Bill Thomas, Lew Clawson, Wyn Sheldon, Dick



Hawkshaw Hawkins

Biddle and Paul Myers, who took over as WWVA Program Director in addition to handling the job of Jamboree Director.

A new singer was introduced to Jamboree audiences in that year of 1946, one who was destined to become one of the great all-time favorites. Hawkshaw Hawkins, lovingly remembered as "Mr. Eleven Yards of Personality" captured the hearts of Jamboree fans immediately that night in the Virginia Theatre and enjoyed years of popularity during his association with the Jamboree.

A milestone in Jamboree history was reached on February 8, 1947 when the one millionth visitor bought a ticket to see the Jamboree. Wheeling merchants and manufacturers, Jamboree entertainers and staff made Miss Laverne Howell special guest of honor that night as they joyously celebrated the historic ticket purchase.

Later that year, on August 1946, more than 6,000 persons from all over the U.S. came to Wheeling for the first rodeo Jamboree which was held at Wheeling's Municipal Stadium. So successful was this unique presentation that it was presented again the following summer by popular demand.

It was during this year, 1947, that a lovely young singer joined the Jamboree, appearing onstage with Doc Williams and The Border Riders. Chickie Williams, who soon became known to fans as "The Girl With The Lullaby Voice," was added as a regular member and her



FRONT ROW: L to R: Cy Sneezweed, Fudge Mayse, Budge Mayse, Curley Reynolds, Hiram Hayseed, Red Belcher, Galen Ritchey, Melvin Ritchey, Oscar Quidelmrip.
SECOND ROW: L to R: Marion Martin, Bill Carver, Monty Blake, Abner Cole, Honey Davis, Curley Miller, Wilma Lee Cooper, Silly Willy, Jimmy Hutchison, Sonny Davis, Brother Cy Williams.
BACK ROW: L to R: Big Slim, Millie Wayne McQuay, Doc Williams, Shirley Barker, Stoney Cooper, Chickie Williams, Joe Barker, Hallie Miller, Reed Dunn, Sunflower, Jimmy Walker, Bonnie Baldwin, Hawkshaw Hawkins.



Miss Laverne Howell and Lew Clawson

popularity and Jamboree fame skyrocketed with her recording of "Beyond The Sunset."

The years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 were truly outstanding years for the Jamboree. Every week, huge crowds jammed the sidewalks on 12th Street and the marble-floored lobby of the Virginia Theatre, happily waiting for hours if necessary, to get in to see the Jamboree.



Lee Moore

Let's stop and take a quick look at the year 1950, for this was when that Coffee Drinking Night Hawk, Lee Moore came to WWVA Radio with his all-night show. As a guitar playing, singing disc jockey, Lee quickly won many fans and was soon a regular member of the Saturday night Jamboree.

It was in 1950 too, when the first out-of-the-Tri-State area Jamboree tour was made. Doc Williams and his Border Riders traveled to

Presque Isle, Maine to take a little Jamboree country music to the folks in New England.

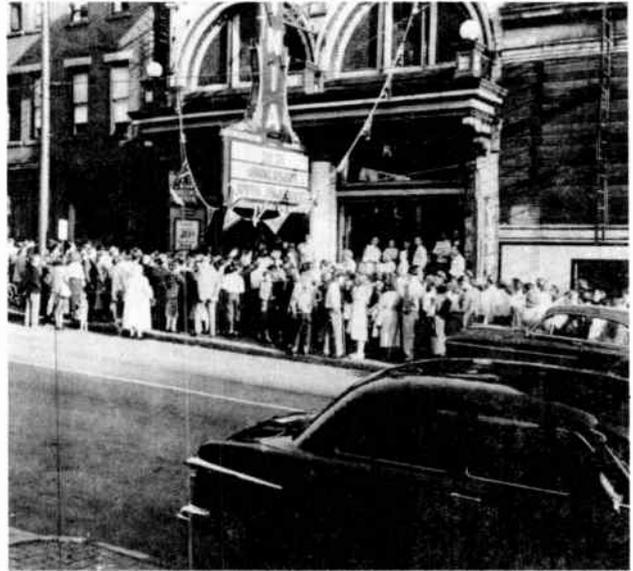
A new lead guitarist joined the Jamboree in July 1952, appearing on the show with Hal Lone Pine, Betty Cody and Harold Carter. It was Abner Doolittle, who had been a back-up musician for Hawkshaw Hawkins at an appearance in New Hampshire. Hawkshaw was so impressed by Abner's talent, he brought him to the attention of the Jamboree director and in 1953, Abner became leader of the Jamboree staff band, a position he held until 1961. He returned to the Jamboree in 1971 and today is a member of the staff band. Abner is his stage name and as Ray Couture, he is an executive with WWVA Radio today.

In December 1952, Jamboree Christmas greetings were sent 3,000 miles to a colony of Quebec Eskimos, all regular listeners to the Wheeling country music broadcast. The highlight of the special broadcast for the Eskimos was a Christmas greeting spoken in their own language.

In an effort to bring the Jamboree and its beloved country music entertainment to the many thousands who could not travel to Wheeling to see the show, groups of Jamboree artists took to the road, playing towns and cities all over the east, giving the folks a taste of the music and comedy they had come to love. During 1952, Jamboree acts made 761 personal appearances in 436 cities and towns before a combined audience of 526,789 people.



20th Anniversary - 1953



20th Anniversary - 1953



Saturday night at Jamboree



Jamboree Cast

Birthday anniversaries roll around for everyone, and everything, including the Jamboree. Spirits were high and joy and happiness filled the air the night of May 9, 1953 when the Jamboree celebrated twenty years of Saturday night broadcasting. Two special anniversary shows were staged in the Virginia Theatre that night, but the highlight of the evening came when the Jamboree was featured as part of the CBS coast-to-coast radio broadcast of its then popular show, "Saturday Night - Country style." During these first 20 years, 1,750,000 fans had seen the Jamboree with countless millions of listeners in twenty states and Canada.

The five year period of Jamboree broadcasting in the Virginia Theatre, from 1953 to 1958, were truly Golden Years in Jamboree history.

These were the days when the entire Jamboree cast assembled onstage to sing the famous Jamboree theme song at the opening of the show. Entertainers sat around onstage on bales of hay during the performance; Jack Supler and Monty Blake were super-salesmen at selling souvenirs to the fans and country comedy with Crazy Elmer was emerging as one of the most popular features of the Jamboree. Fans were treated to an "Elmer Original" comedy skit each week, a fifteen to twenty minute hilarious routine that might find Elmer, with his straight man, Monty Blake, off on a rocket flight to the moon or letting the audience in on the secret of one of his fantastic inventions. (Crazy Elmer is a dual-talent, known also as Smilie Sutter, singer and West Virginia's Champion Yodeler.)

The roster of top talent that played on the show each week will bring back many memories. Do you remember Roy Scott and The Country Harmony Boys; Cowboy Phil and the Golden West Girls; Buddy and Marion Durham; the Newcomer Twins; the Louvin Brothers; Red Belcher; Shorty Fincher; Abner Doolittle; Toby

Stroud; Lone Pine and Betty Cody; Hardrock Gunter; Bud Messner and the Skyline Boys; Dusty Owens, Jimmy Walker. Today's popular nationally-known singer Bill Anderson was also a member of the Jamboree cast some twenty years ago.



Roy Scott



Cowboy Phil and the Golden West



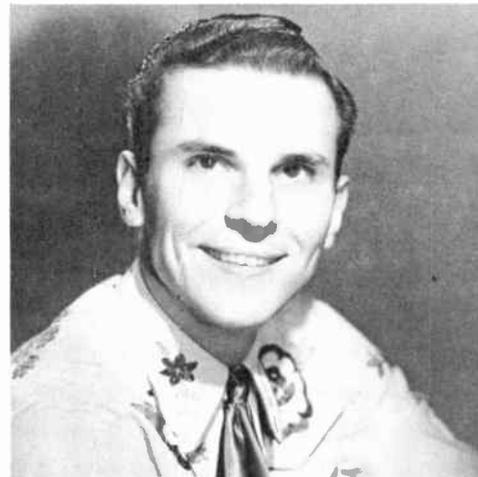
Buddy and Marion Durham



The Newcomer Twins



Toby Stroud



Dusty Owens

By 1958, when the Jamboree celebrated its 25th anniversary, more than two million persons had attended the show and the Governor of West Virginia, Cecil H. Underwood joined in the congratulations heaped upon WWVA and the Jamboree, praising it as “the most imitated show of its kind in the country . . . an American institution and a listening habit.”

In October 1958, the Jamboree moved uptown to the Capitol Theatre for a one-night Jamboree Harvest Home Festival show. More than 3,000 people poured through the doors that Saturday night and guest star of the evening was Hawkshaw Hawkins.

As the fifties drew to a close, the Jamboree was still racking up record attendance figures along with one after another of outstanding Saturday night shows. The Sunshine Boys Gospel Quartet was at the height of its popularity during these years, known throughout the land for their recording of “Peace In The Valley.”

In June 1961, WWVA announcer John Corrigan took over as director and MC of the Jamboree, following the death of Paul A. Myers.

Thirteen months later, in July 1962, the Jamboree gave a final performance from the stage of the old Virginia Theatre. After 54 years of theatrical history, the majestic old show house was closing its doors and the Jamboree was forced to make a move. Without interrupting its regular pace of performances every Saturday night, the Jamboree moved a couple of blocks downtown and opened the following Saturday in the Rex Theatre.

During the three and one half years the Jamboree presented shows at the Rex Theatre, a subtle but important change began to appear not only in programming but in country music itself. Faint stirrings of the ‘modern country sound’ were beginning to be felt and a shift toward a more ‘uptown’ style was emerging.

This was the era that saw the introduction of ‘name’ guest entertainers who appeared with the regular Jamboree performers and one of the biggest crowd-pullers who guested on the show during these years was Marvin Rainwater, a colorful Indian who was an instant hit.

Elton Britt, who soared to national fame with his hit recording of “There’s A Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere,” was introduced to Jamboree audiences from the stage of the Rex Theatre and was signed as a regular Jamboree performer.



Harvest Home Square Dance



The Sunshine Boys



Elton Britt

In its long and colorful history, now some thirty-three years of it, the Jamboree had been a theatrical vagabond, forced to make continuous moves to larger quarters due to “growing pains” brought about by its phenomenal success. By January 1966, plans were made for another in a long series of moves, and the Jamboree packed up and moved across the Ohio River’s east channel to the Wheeling Island Exhibition Hall, which later became known as Jamboree Hall. On the 15th of January, the show opened to over 5,600 fans with a big Buck Owens benefit performance Jamboree for the Heart Association, an outstanding night that raised over \$7,500 for the Heart Fund.

That uptown beat and modern country sound that had been rumbling in the background since the Rex Theatre days, was beginning to make itself more loudly heard by now, and country music in general was becoming more strongly involved in a transition. As a leader in its field, the Jamboree kept pace these years, sensing the trends that were being established during the late sixties. In short, country music was beginning to acquire a new sound, and this new sound was making itself felt and heard wherever country music was being played.

Nationally known guest entertainers began to appear on the Jamboree each week and outside the huge, barn-like structure that was Jamboree Hall, long lines of country music fans queued up every Saturday night, waiting to see the show.

These were the years when Connie Smith, Porter and Dolly, Dick Curless, Sheb Wooley, Hank Snow, Bill Anderson, Marty Robbins, Ferlin Husky, Skeeter Davis and other well-known artists were showing up regularly on Jamboree shows. Johnny Cash and June Carter were beginning their climb to national fame during these years and were among the many who sang before the WWVA mike.

Meanwhile, in mid-1969, preparations were being made for one big and final move for the wandering Jamboree. The Capitol Music Hall in Wheeling had been acquired by Basic Communications Inc. and was being readied as a permanent home for the Jamboree. In addition to moving the Jamboree to the Capitol, B C I was also preparing to move the broadcasting studios and business offices from the 10th floor of the Hawley Building to the newly remodeled office and studio layout on the main



Jamboree Hall



Crowds outside Jamboree Hall



Saturday night at Jamboree

floor of the Capitol Music Hall. Such a move would, after many years, put the Jamboree, WWVA Radio and its business offices under one roof.

On December 6, 1969, the Jamboree played a final performance in the Jamboree Hall on Wheeling Island. One week later, on December 13th, amid the festivity and celebration due such an occasion, the Jamboree “came home” to the Capitol Theatre, now renamed the Capitol Music Hall.



It was an eventful night in Jamboree history. Thousands of fans crowded the theatre that winter evening, unmindful of the cold, eager only to be a part of this wonderful Jamboree homecoming. Banners, ribbons and spotlights, celebrities and fans, all helped to launch the new 'modern country Jamboree' that memorable night.

After more than 36 years of broadcasting and 9 moves from one location to another, now, in the closing days of the sixties, the Jamboree unpacked its gear for one last time and took up permanent residence in its original home.

Today we're in the seventies. The Jamboree has four decades of colorful, enviable history behind it and can proudly boast an attendance figure of over three million visitors.

Jamboree tours are still being made and a group of Jamboree artists traveled to Montreal, Canada on July 28, 1970 to star in a show at the "Man and His World Expo."

On August 27, 1970 Jamboree stars were in Canada again, this time at the Canadian National Exhibition where they played Jamboree style country music to help promote tourism to the Wild and Wonderful state that is their home, West Virginia.

The fame of the Jamboree, its artists and its music, has reached beyond the borders of our land, even across the ocean to Great Britain, where they have come to know and love the music that is so uniquely American. Wheeling and the Jamboree was one of the stops in the tour itinerary of a group of British country music lovers when they visited the states in October, 1970. More than 150 country music artists and fans from Great Britain spent an evening at the Jamboree and unanimously agreed that "... what we need over home (England) is more music like this. We simply love it!"

On December 12, 1970, the Jamboree celebrated its first anniversary in the Capitol Music Hall, with a pre-show party for invited guests and a big Jamboree spectacular on stage starring Darnell Miller, Mary Lou Turner, Gus & Jo Ann Thomas, Jimmy Stephens, Junior Norman and Van Trevor.

1971 proved to be a banner year in Jamboree attendance. More than ten thousand Jamboree fans poured into Wheeling on October 23rd for four big shows starring Charley Pride and it meant another milestone had been reached in Jamboree history.

West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore Jr. highlighted the list of notable guests who helped celebrate the second anniversary of the Jamboree's move to the Capitol Music Hall on December 11, 1971. Jerry Reed was featured guest artist on the Jamboree that night and Gov. Moore publicly recognized veteran Jamboree entertainer, Doc Williams, as "Ambassador of Good Will for the State of West Virginia."

Right on the heels of this big anniversary show, another 'first' was made in Jamboree history when a group of entertainers visited the Moundsville Penitentiary on Saturday, Christmas Eve, to present the first live radio broadcast from within the prison walls. Close to 600 inmates enjoyed the Jamboree show that night, featuring Bud Cutright, Gus and Jo Ann Thomas, Roger Bland, Slim Lehart and the Jamboree staff band.



Jackie Smith, Kenny Biggs, Jo Ann Thomas, Gus Thomas - Bahama Air/Sea Tour.

In 1972, we find the Jamboree off on tour again, this time with another milestone 'first!' On April 24th, Jamboree artists Gus & Jo Ann Thomas, Kenny Biggs, and Lynn Stewart, along with 100 tourist passengers, embarked on an Air/Sea Tour to Miami, Florida and the Bahamas. Passengers and entertainers ate, played and sang their way through five days of exotic tropical fun and proved that country music goes just as well under a palm tree as it does in the hills of West Virginia. As a result, another similar tour is being planned by the Jamboree.

April was an eventful month in Jamboree history, for on April 28th, the first Jamboree was filmed on video tape. It was a specially produced Jamboree show, presented on a Friday night and open to the public. Mid-America

Tele-Productions filmed the Jamboree as a pilot TV presentation, with plans for future nationwide syndication of the show.



Red Sovine - Dick Curless at Truck Drivers Jamboree Sept. 2, 1972.

When late summer of '72' rolled around, following weeks of big Saturday night shows, Jamboree U.S.A. scored again with a four-star headline attraction salute to the truckdrivers of America. On September 2nd, several thousand truck drivers and their families poured into Wheeling and the Capitol Music Hall to see and hear those top four artists who have endeared themselves to millions singing country music songs about those men of the road, the truck drivers. Some 5,000 fans were treated to a show that night starring Dick Curless, Red Simpson, Red Sovine and Dave Dudley. A special feature was the production of Dick Curless' first live on-stage recording for Capitol Records, with the cheers and shouts of the audience blending right in with the songs. Jamboree artists Patti Powell, Slim Lehart, the Compton Brothers and Gus & Jo Ann Thomas were also part of the show. So successful was this first truck-drivers Jamboree, plans are being made to make it an annual event.

Now, we're up to date with the many events and milestones that are part of the Jamboree's history. We proudly stand face to face with our fortieth anniversary and the happy celebration planned for the occasion.

There have been changes over the years, true, and new artists and styles keep coming along. Today it's the modern country sound that's heard on the Jamboree, but there's still the same down-home atmosphere, that guitar pickin' singer on stage still reaches across the footlights with note and lyric to those fans of his out front and they still drive hundreds of miles to Wheeling, West Virginia every Saturday night. For they know they're seeing only the best of today's country music talent on the Jamboree. They have only to glance back across the years at the names of others who have sung before a Jamboree mike and still make frequent guest appearances.

Modern country though it may be, that distinctive sentiment expressed in music still touches the heart of every country music fan. When the Blue Ridge Quartet sings "Rise 'N Shine" to a three show sell-out crowd and Merle Haggard gets his 'love America' message across in "Okie From Muskogee" or Patti Powell reaches out to every truck driver's wife with "Long Haul Widow," those fans and listeners just know they've got an understanding friend up there who's traveled the same pathway through life they have.

Through forty triumphant years the Jamboree



Dick Curless recording for Capitol Records Jamboree Salute to Truck Drivers of America, Sept. 2, 1972.

has endured to bring this music from the heart of America to America's heart: her people, who find in these songs the reflection of their lives. The Jamboree stands today as one of America's two remaining live radio broadcast shows. And after 35 great years, Doc Williams is still there to greet his many friends "from the rock bound coast of Maine, to sunny Florida and up in Canada . . ."

Jamboree U.S.A. Its past glistens with greatness. Its future, onward and upward, for "the best is yet to come!"

Highlights in Jamboree History

The Virginia Theatre Years

Jamboree fans of the late 40's and 50's will nostalgically recall the old Virginia Theatre that once stood on 12th Street in downtown Wheeling, for it was here that a few milestones were reached in Jamboree history.

Those were the days, from 1946 to 1962, when the Jamboree stage wore a down-on-the-farm look, with the Mail Pouch Tobacco barn back-drop and the bales of hay, and the gals in their cute gingham dresses and cowgirl style outfits, the men in plaid shirts, overalls and western suits.

The show always opened with the entire cast onstage singing their Jamboree theme song. Remember? . . . "Now here's the Jamboree to greet you, in the good old-fashioned way . . ." and when not before the mike, entertainers sat around onstage on the bales of hay. The whole

atmosphere was one of rural, homey informality and how the crowds did jam the sidewalks and theatre lobby to get in for those shows.

It was here, on the stage of the Virginia Theatre, that "Eleven Yards of Personality,"



Hawkshaw Hawkins was first introduced to Jamboree audiences. Hawkshaw became an immediate hit, a great favorite with everyone and his duets with Big Slim . . . they were great on that old favorite "Detour" . . . were always the highlight of any Jamboree. (Hawkshaw's last Jamboree appearance was at the October 1962 Harvest Home Festival at the Capitol Theatre. He died in an airplane crash in March 1963.

George Morgan first sang his big hit, "Candy Kisses" on the Jamboree stage here and the Sunshine Boys began their rise to gospel quartet singing fame during this period.

It was in the Virginia Theatre, on February 8, 1947, that the one millionth Jamboree fan bought a ticket and in 1953, the Jamboree here celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Think back to 1949 and if your memory is really good, you may recall another entertainer who appeared on the Jamboree stage then. Ken Curtis was a 'regular' during those days in the late 40's and we know him today as Festus on the "Gunsmoke" television show.

In country music, there are lots of good singers but few yodelers, so when one does come along, like Kenny Roberts, folks really sit up and take notice. Kenny was and is one of the greatest yodelers to trill his way through a song, and he had a million seller with his recording of "I Never See Maggie Alone." It was on the Jamboree stage, in the Virginia Theatre, that Kenny Roberts really started his climb to fame and he's one of the Jamboree's star performers yet today.

Comedy played a prominent role in those Virginia Theatre Jamboree shows back then. Can anyone forget the slapstick routines of Crazy Elmer and his uncanny ability to defy gravity by leaning far forward, almost to the floor, his feet seemingly glued to the stage. Or his hat, sailing far out over the audience, always returning to his outstretched hand.

This was the period, too, when every entertainer had his own complete band, giving a distinct, individual sound to each act.

The 16 years that the Jamboree was broadcast from the Virginia Theatre was truly a memorable era in Jamboree history. A subtle change began to appear in the Jamboree atmosphere after it moved from here to the Rex and the shift toward the modern country sound and style began to emerge.

For many thousands of fans, the years the Jamboree was in the Virginia Theatre will always stand out as a significant period in Jamboree history. But it will have to stand in memory only. The beloved old theatre fell to a wrecker's ball in 1963 to make room for a parking lot.



Hawkshaw Hawkins



Big Slim



George Morgan



Festus of 'Gunsmoke' was once a Jamboree regular. Here he is with Chickie Williams and Shug Fisher.



Kenny Roberts



Crazy Elmer

Jamboree Comes 'Home' To Capitol Theatre . . .

The white arc of a giant searchlight in the night sky, the noisy hubub of the swarming crowd of devoted country music fans huddled close in the chilly evening air, the glitter and dazzle of celebrities and special guests, the smiles of weary triumph on the faces of WWVA management and staff, the red ribbon and spanking new offices, tinkling ice and tempting food, and the blind man with his faithful dog who had traveled 600 miles alone, "just to be here for it all;" these were some of the sights and sounds that Saturday night, December 13, 1969 as the WWVA Jamboree climaxed 36 years of Saturday night broadcasting with a sentimental and triumphant return to the Capitol Theatre where that first Jamboree show was held on April 1, 1933.

Wheeling Mayor William Rogers, with golden scissors, snipped the ribbon marking the official opening of the Capitol Music Hall, new home of the WWVA Jamboree and to Emil Mogul, president of Basic Communications, Inc., owners of WWVA, he presented a golden key . . . the key to the city of Wheeling.



Homecoming to Capitol Music Hall - Dec. 1969.



Wheeling Mayor William Rogers cuts ribbon.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, more than 2,500 fans flocked through the door for that first show, while invited guests enjoyed a

cocktail hour and open house in the sparkling new station facilities. Orchestra and balcony were filled to capacity for a show that featured such headline stars as Bill Anderson, Jan Howard, Connie Smith, Nat Stuckey, Jimmy Gately and The Po Boys, Les SeEVERS, Doc and Chickie Williams, Karen McKenzie, The Blue Ridge Quartet, Mary Lou Turner, Junior Norman, Kay Kemmer, Jimmy Stephens, David Rogers and Gus Thomas.

In the newly renovated Capitol Music Hall, the Jamboree found a home truly fitting for its world-famous country music shows. Interior decor is tasteful though not overly ornate, lighting is low and soft and seats are comfortable. Acoustics are excellent, enabling those in the rear of the theatre to hear just as well as fans seated in the first few rows.

Moving a complete radio station from the 10th floor of the Hawley Building to the ground floor of the Capitol Music Hall was no easy task, but WWVA engineers Bill McGlumphy and Fred Gardini handled it efficiently and smoothly, testimony indeed to their many years experience in broadcast engineering for WWVA.

WWVA officials were "overwhelmed with the manner in which the employees performed to make the opening such a success. And the support from the fans, busy with the holiday (Christmas) season, has been terrific."

The glittering evening concluded with a gala buffet dinner at the McLure House in downtown Wheeling. Mr. and Mrs. Mogul were presented with an inscribed plaque in honor of their efforts and achievements in promoting WWVA, the Jamboree and country music. More than 200 guests celebrated this memorable night in the history of WWVA Radio and the Jamboree.

Thus it was, that after 36 eventful years, the WWVA Jamboree "came home" at last; home to the theatre where those first Jamboree shows were presented. Music publishers, talent agents, recording executives, entertainers and many others found their way to Wheeling that Saturday night, for they recognized the emergence of a new star in the country music firmament and for those who seek their fortune within the sound of a twanging guitar, there's little doubt that Wheeling, West Virginia and its famous Jamboree will be where the action is from now on when it comes to country music.

Four Big Shows – with Charley Pride

Jamboree history was made in Wheeling on Saturday night, October 23, 1971 when better than ten thousand country music lovers jammed the Capitol Music Hall for an unprecedented four show sell-out to see and hear number one country music singer, Charley Pride. Winner of two awards at the 1971 annual Country Music Association convention in Nashville (number one male vocalist and number one entertainer of the year) tall, handsome, talented Charley Pride ably proved he has the whoppin' big talent it takes to 'raise the roof' and bring a screaming audience to its feet.

This was his first Wheeling appearance and first major public appearance since picking up the Nashville awards. His thirty minute performance, backed by his four piece group, The Pridemen, was a musical bell-ringer all the way through, with many of his songs drowned out by the shrieking audience.

He opened his show with "Oh, Lonesome Me," then "Just Between You and Me" followed by one of his biggest hits, "Kawliga" the tub-thumping song about the wooden Indian lovers.

Pleased and impressed at the rousing reception he received, Pride interrupted his singing to thank the audience.

"I've heard about the Wheeling Jamboree and WWVA, and wow! Am I ever glad to be here. They've been telling me to come to Wheeling. Now I know why. You're wonderful! And believe me, I'll be back again . . . soon."

Introducing one of his numbers, he said "This song reminds me of what I never want to go back to." And then the Mississippi-born singer took off on "In Them Ole Cotton Fields Back Home."

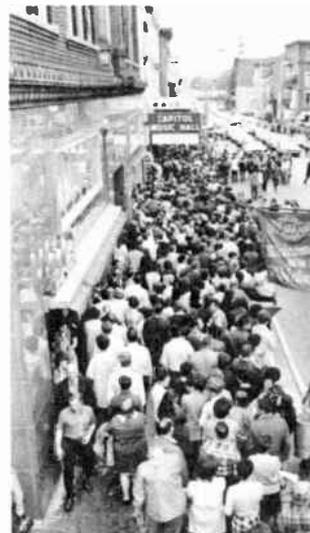
Wheeling Mayor James Haranzo appeared on stage during one show to present Charley Pride with "The Key To The City," an honor heretofore not conferred on any previous country music entertainer.

Emil Mogul, owner of Basic Communications, Inc. which incorporates WWVA, was first to greet the singer as he walked off-stage, still blinded by the dazzling foot-lights and try-to mop the trickles of sweat that streaked his face.

Swarms of autograph-seeking fans blocked the stage entrance and spilled into the side alley. It was truly one of the most successful Jamboree shows ever. Three big performances



Charley Pride



followed, right up to midnight, headlined by other Jamboree favorites: Slim Lehart, Landon Williams, Dick Curless, Bob Gallion, Patti Powell and a host of others.

As a public sign of welcome for its visiting star, the Capitol Hall marquee had sported the slogan, "We Have Pride In Wheeling." For country music singer Charley Pride, wowing them from the Jamboree stage, he spoke with pride of his own when he reciprocated the feeling with the sincere gesture,

"I'm coming back here again. We'll get the biggest place ever and just do about five hours of this kind of singing!"

And the kind'a guy he is, you just know he really meant it.

*Jamboree 'Goes To Prison' –
With A Live Broadcast!*

It was another great 'first' for Jamboree U.S.A. when, on Saturday Christmas Day 1971, a live Jamboree show was broadcast from within the walls of the West Virginia Maximum Security Prison at Moundsville, West Virginia. Through the cooperation of WWVA Radio, the Jamboree and the office of West Virginia Gov. Arch A. Moore, Jr., a group of Jamboree entertainers put on a special broadcast to the nearly 600 prison inmates, truly a "very special Christmas gift."

Jamboree artists who participated in this unique presentation that night were Bud Cutright, Gus and Joanne Thomas, Roger Bland, Slim Lehart and the Jamboree staff band.

The regular 7:30 and 10 PM Jamboree shows were held at the Capitol Music Hall with a simultaneous 7:30 performance emanating from the penitentiary broadcast over 50,000 watt WWVA.

The announcement of the Christmas Jamboree from the Moundsville facility came only days after Gov. Moore lifted a ban prohibiting newsmen from visiting the institution.



"Never to my knowledge, has a show of this type ever originated at this time of year in a penitentiary," commented Glenn Reeves, Jamboree Director. "As far as performers were concerned, we had unusually high requests to be on the show."

Christmas greetings to the men of Moundsville were received from President Nixon and

Vice-President Agnew, Gov. Moore and Evangelist Oral Roberts.

Officials of WWVA, Jamboree U.S.A. and the Governor's Office are considering plans to make the Christmas broadcast of the Jamboree from the Moundsville prison an annual presentation.

Jamboree Homecoming Reunion . . .

A reunion is a happy time to reminisce, talk over old times and enjoy the company of those whose friendship has meant so much over the years. Such a mood was in the air when the Jamboree held its first annual homecoming reunion May 20, 1972 in conjunction with the 2nd annual meeting of the ESCMI convention.

Jamboree artists, many of whom were on the original Jamboree shows back in the thirties, gathered in Wheeling early that Saturday afternoon to enjoy a social hour and reception held at the Jamboree Backstage Lounge.

Three Jamboree broadcasts were held that Saturday and featured artists whose names reach back many years in Jamboree history. Hosting the show was Doc Williams who, with Chickie, headlined the Jamboree which starred such old-time favorites as Stoney Cooper & Wilma Lee, Grandpa Jones, Elmer Crowe, Marion Martin, Lee Moore, Roy Scott, Smilie Sutter (also known as Crazy Elmer) 'Silver Yodelin' Bill Jones, Dolph Hewitt and Dick Curless.

In addition to the many artists from Jamboree shows of yesteryear, there were special guests in attendance who had figured prominently in getting those first Jamboree broadcasts off to such a successful start. Mildred Cogley, secretary to the manager of WWVA during those early days wrote the original contract license application for the radio station; Mrs. Paul A. Myers, wife of the late Paul Myers who was Jamboree artist and program director from 1936 to 1961; Mrs. George W. Smith, wife of the late Mr. Smith who served as managing director and founder of the Jamboree; and Howard Donahoe, program director and talent director for the first Jamboree.

These special guests were introduced to the audience during the second Jamboree show and Mr. Donahoe took a few moments to talk about those early years and how they formed the original Jamboree.



Little Sampson, Sammi Asher Houser, Floyd Houser, Herman Redman, and Lloyd Carter.



Doc Williams, Grandpa Jones, Silver Yodelin' Bill Jones, Elmer Crowe, Wilma Lee Cooper - Reunion Jamboree.



Grandpa Jones and Cowboy Phil.



Marion Martin, Wilma Lee & Bill Carver.

Other Jamboree artists from the thirties and forties who were present that night, although not on the Jamboree, were: Bonnie Baldwin, Monty 'Murphy' Blake; Fred Gardini; Art Lucas; Ramona Schwing Miller; "Cowboy Phil"; Jimmy Walker; Millie Wayne; Shirley Barker; Blaine Stewart and many others.

During the ten o'clock Jamboree show, Shirley Barker and Blaine Stewart presented the awards to the ESCMI talent contest winners.

The planning committee for this reunion homecoming began work on the project early in the year and it took many weeks of letter-writing and calling to contact the artists and guests. Many have dropped out of sight over the years, and committee members were unable to locate them but it is hoped they will be found and able to attend the next reunion.

Planning committee members were Doc Williams, chairman Barbara 'Peeper' Kempf, Jean Miller, Crazy Elmer, Gus Thomas and Jamboree Director, Glenn Reeves.

The 2nd annual Jamboree homecoming will be held May 19, 1973.

Jamboree U.S.A. Salutes The Truckdrivers Of America!

"The railroads of yesterday have been replaced by the freight hauling trucks and those travelin' men, the truck drivers." This comment by one of country music's bestknown singers of truckdriving songs, Dave Dudley, points up a recent trend in country music as it swings more strongly toward the modern country sound.

In recognition of this truck driver segment of country music, Jamboree U.S.A. came up with two big Saturday night Jamboree broadcasts on September 2, 1972 that featured today's top-name artists in the truck driving field of country music: Dick Curless, Red Sovine, Dave Dudley and Red Simpson. The mammoth show was billed as Salute to Truckdrivers of America and featured these artists, along with the Jamboree's own "Long Haul Widow," Patti Powell.

One of the feature highlights of the evening was a live, onstage recording by Dick Curless of a new album for Columbia Records. Curless, often referred to as The Baron, sang a selection of his most popular tunes, including a new number titled "I've Come Awful Close." Curless has cut a number of albums but this marked the first time he had done one live, before an audience. And the audience, thrilled and enthusiastic at being part of an album, responded with cheers and wild applause as Curless went through his numbers.



Dick Curless doing live recording for Capitol Records - Sept. 2, 1972. Truck Drivers Jamboree.

The Capitol Music Hall was quite a packed place that Saturday night as truck drivers, and their families filled the theatre for two sell-out shows. Many had driven to town in campers, which they parked at some of the nearby truck stops, while those drivers who pulled in with their big rigs, were shuttled in to Wheeling from the truck stops on a special Jamboree shuttle bus.

Dave Dudley with his band The Roadrunners, was greeted with much whooping and clapping

and responded by telling all "How proud I am to be a part of this great Jamboree which salutes you truck drivers." Dudley is best known for his hit "Six Days on the Road," and confesses to being an ex-trucker himself. In any event, he's quite a popular entertainer and the Jamboree audience that night was wildly enthusiastic in their greeting when he appeared on stage.



Patti Powell greets fans who rode shuttle bus to town for Jamboree.

One of the biggest selling records in the truckdriver area of country music is "I'm A Truck" that clever and catchy number by Red Simpson that relates the woes and indignities suffered by trucks at the hands of their drivers. Red sang his popular number during the show and also did that other song every trucker knows well, "Roll, Truck, Roll." This was Red Simpson's first visit to the Wheeling Jamboree, but it's a sure bet he'll be back again soon.

Red Sovine of "Phantom 309" fame also shared the Jamboree spotlight with his fellow performers and was brought back for a curtain call and another runthrough of this well-known song.

Appearing on the show that night were Jamboree entertainers Patti Powell, Slim Lehart, and The Compton Brothers.

Jamboree officials were so pleased with reaction to this 'special,' they are already making plans to have this Truckdrivers Jamboree an annual event.

Jamboree Tours

Jamboree tours, to those towns and cities hundreds of miles from Wheeling, have been a Jamboree tradition for many years. From Canada, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, through our northeastern states and on down south, Jamboree entertainers have 'hit the road', traveling countless thousands of miles to bring Jamboree style country music to the legions of loyal fans who have not been able to come to Wheeling to see the show.

To enumerate these tours would be virtually impossible. In the past couple of years however, the Jamboree has been requested to participate in exhibitions and at important functions, here in the U.S. and in Canada.

Come with us now, as we follow these Jamboree artists on tour . . . all the way from Canada to the Bahamas!

Jamboree Stars To Toronto and Montreal . . .

Wheeling, West Virginia is the traditional home of the Jamboree, but on several occasions, members of the show have taken to the road, presenting special Jamboree programs in other cities. In 1970, a group of Jamboree performers put on two special shows in Canada, the first in Montreal at the "Man and His World" Exhibit on July 28th. On August 27, 1970, Jamboree stars again visited Canada, this time going to the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, at the request of the Travel Development Division of the West Virginia State Department of Commerce. The Jamboree staff band, Bud Cutright and the Wheelers, Kay Kemmer, Freddy Carr and Gus and Jo Ann Thomas entertained thousands at these special Jamboree shows.

Jamboree Goes Metropolitan Country . . .

Recognizing the fact that the Jamboree is a unique and important West Virginia asset, the West Virginia Dept. of Commerce requested Jamboree participation in a series of special promotional tours to New York, Philadelphia and Chicago.

On behalf of the Travel Development Division of the Dept. of Commerce, Jamboree stars Gus Thomas, Bud Cutright, Freddy Carr and Mary Lou Turner represented Jamboree U.S.A. on a 'blitz trip' to New York and Philadelphia on March 23, 24 and 25, 1971. These popular Jamboree stars entertained travel editors, writers and industry investors at luncheons and press conferences and contributed greatly to the efforts of the Department to promote tourism in West Virginia.

A special mini-Jamboree, starring Gus and Jo Ann Thomas, Freddy Carr, Mary Lou Turner, Tracy Miller and Jerry Brightman and The Wheelers, highlighted the entertainment at a reception, press luncheon and promotional meeting hosted by the West Virginia Dept. of Commerce in Chicago on February 23, 1972. Over 125 travel writers, editors and travel agents attended the event, held at the Drake Hotel.

West Virginia is making an all out effort to encourage tourism in the state and director John H. Deitz of the Travel Development Division invited Jamboree U.S.A. to participate in the promotional campaign, knowing that this Wheeling country music broadcast has done much over the years to bring national recognition to the Mountain State.



On board the MS/Sunward, Jamboree stars Lynn Stewart, Kenny Biggs (straw hat and all!) and Gus Thomas pick and sing in Jamboree style for the tour passengers.



"Going native," that's what Kenny Biggs and Gus Thomas did when they landed in the Bahamas.



Which way to where? The sign will tell you, and it tells us that Jamboree entertainers Gus Thomas, Jo Ann Thomas, Jackie Smith and Kenny Biggs are just like any other tourist when it comes to posing for a souvenir photo to 'show the folks back home.'

It's 'Off To Sea' For The Jamboree!

A new, exciting combination of travel with entertainment was introduced to over 100 country music-loving tourists on April 24, 1972 when Jamboree U.S.A., in cooperation with Security Travel of Wheeling, inaugurated the first Jamboree Air/Sea Tour.

Fun, sun, good food, a cruise and the very best in Jamboree entertainment, five days of it, were awaiting the group that took off from Greater Pittsburgh Airport for the flight to Miami, Florida, then a cruise aboard the MS/Sunward to Freeport and Nassau.

On the plane and on the sunny deck of the luxurious cruise ship, Jamboree artists Gus and Jo Ann Thomas, Lynn Stewart and Kenny Biggs and Jackie Smith kept the passengers happily entertained with the very best in live country music.

During the four night stop-over cruise through the Bahamas, the MS/Sunward served as a "floating hotel" for its passengers. Shopping on the islands, fishing, swimming and just relaxing under a warm tropical sun were the fun-time activities the passengers enjoyed. Add to that, scrumptious, tantalizing food, balmy tropical breezes and the lively, back-home sounds of good old Jamboree U.S.A. music . . . and you have an unbeatable combination of fun and entertainment; another creative 'first' for Jamboree U.S.A.!

Jamboree In The Seventies . . .

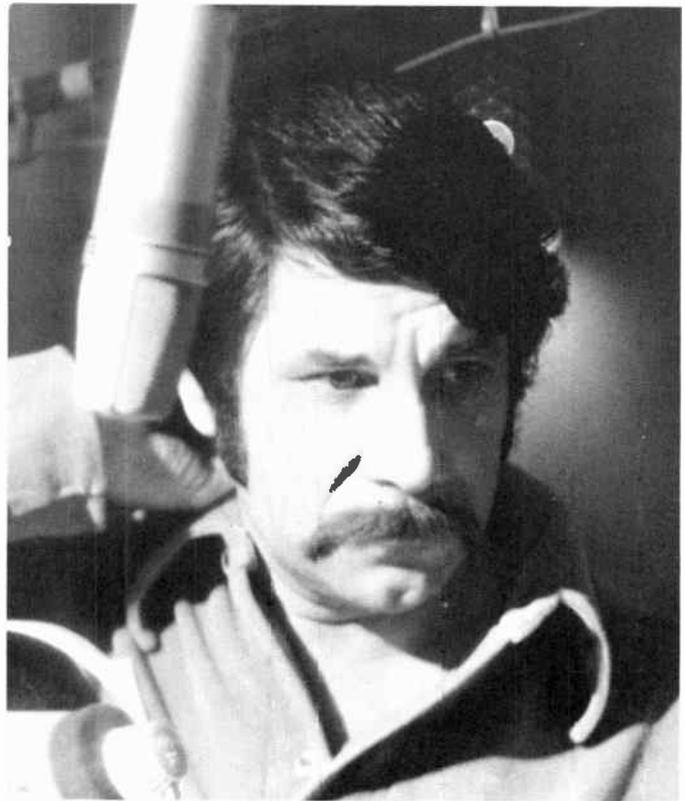


First recording session.

Jamboree U.S.A. Recording Studio

In the spring of 1971, a new dimension in the image of the modern country Jamboree was added when a full service 8 track recording studio was put in to operation. Located in the Capitol Music Hall, the new facility (only one in West Virginia) will enable artists to record locally as well as offering recording services to the general public. It provides for tape duplication, custom record manufacturing, 8 track and cartridge tape service. In addition, it enables studio engineers to handle the broadcasting for the Saturday night Jamboree as well as the TV taping.

Officially known as Jamboree Recording Studios, the first recording session was conducted during the summer of 1971 when Les Seevers, Mary Lou Turner, Freddy Carr and Gus Thomas cut their first albums on the Jamboree U.S.A. label. Since then, other Jamboree artists have used the Jamboree Studios for recording sessions—stars like Doc Williams, Dody Lynn, Carl Curtis, Kenny Biggs and Stan Childers. Dick Curless' live on-stage recording for Capitol Records, made during the September 2nd truck drivers Jamboree, was recorded by the Jamboree Studios under the direction of studio engineer Jim Sutton.



Jim Sutton

The Jamboree Recording Studio is under the operation and supervision of audio engineer Jim Sutton, an experienced professional with nine years in the recording field.

Jim came to Wheeling and the Jamboree from Dallas, Texas where he worked for two years as a free-lance audio engineer with Pams Recording Studios, Tempo II International Records. Prior to that he worked for 6 years in Jacksonville, Florida as vice-president and chief engineer with Vincent Sound Recording Studios.

Jamboree U.S.A. proudly welcomes this latest advancement in its continuing efforts to provide you, the country music fan, with the latest in modern country broadcasting and recording services.

"The Doc Williams Story"

In covering four decades of Jamboree broadcasting, it would be impossible to accurately document its history without giving special mention to the one entertainer who has contributed so much to the Jamboree over the years, helping in great measure to make it the beloved and renowned country music show it is today.

There's a special niche carved in the chronicle of Jamboree events that belongs only to Doc and Chickie Williams and they enjoy yet today, undisputed recognition as the true 'Royal Family' among an illustrious cavalcade of top-ranking Jamboree performers.

As this year draws to a close, Doc Williams will be looking back across thirty-five years of continuous association with the Jamboree. Thirty-five years that have carried him, over the air, "from the rock-bound coast of Maine, to sunny Florida and to our good friends North of the Border in Canada . . ." and in his traveling bus to such far-flung locations as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and a score of states, hamlets and villages throughout the United States.



Doc Williams and The Border Riders in 1938. L to R: Brother Cy; comedian Froggie Cortez; Sunflower; Curley Sims; Doc Williams.

It was May 1937 when Doc and the Border Riders first came to WWVA and the Jamboree. Brother Cy, Sunflower, Curly Sims and Hamilton 'Rawhide' Fincher were with him then, with Big Slim, the Lone Cowboy joining the group to replace Rawhide in mid-1938.

This was the beginning, the start of a career and an association with the Jamboree that continues today. Through these 35 years, Doc, with Chickie who joined the group professionally in 1947, has contributed immeasurably to the promotion of the Jamboree and country music, bringing to folks everywhere his beloved home-spun style of song and comedy. Carrying country music entertainment to thousands across the miles and across the years has enriched the lives of Doc and Chickie Williams in many ways. Fans have come to know and love them well, along with their three daughters, Peeper, Punkin and Pooch, who toddled onstage at an early age to join Doc and Chickie in the show. For the Williams family, they were doing what they love best and making others happy at the same time.

Their dedication to their art, their profession and the Jamboree, as well as their sincere belief in giving



The Doc Williams Family.

the public wholesome, family-style entertainment, has earned for them recognition of the highest calibre.

It was a well-earned crowning achievement in Doc Williams' long career when, on December 11, 1971 at the second annual Capitol Music Hall homecoming celebration, West Virginia Governor, Arch A. Moore, Jr. proclaimed Doc as "West Virginia's Official Country Music Ambassador of Good Will."

The honor of being the "oldest living regular member of the Jamboree" belongs exclusively to Doc Williams and his name will shine for years to come in the yet unwritten pages of Jamboree history.



West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore Jr. chats with Doc Williams between shows backstage at the Jamboree homecoming in Dec. 1971.



Even today, to many thousands of fans, the Doc Williams Show means only one thing: "JAMBOREE!!"



Crazy Elmer Also Known As Smilie Sutter

Crazy Elmer was born in East Hartford, Connecticut and now makes his home in Wheeling, W. Va. He has been in country music, as a comedian, for 35 years and started on the Jamboree in 1939. As a country music comedian, Crazy Elmer enjoys an enviable reputation and his list of shows played, tours and performers with whom he has worked reads like a who's who of country music. He has appeared on many big state fair entertainment programs, package shows with Nashville stars, special Jamboree tours, carnivals, clubs and parks. Elmer has made guest appearances on the Grand Ole Opry, Flatt & Scruggs TV show, WLS Barn Dance, CBS Barn Dance over KMOX, and endless appearances with well-known country music entertainers, such as Buck Owens, Loretta Lynn, Billy Walker, Roy Clark, Faron Young, Ferlin Husky, Porter and Dolly, Jerry Lee Lewis and many others. In 1938, as Smilie Sutter, he won the West Virginia state yodeling championship. He has a record, "Swiss on Rye" on the Wheeling label and two albums on the Arc Ltd. Canada label. His outside interest is mainly amateur photography. Elmer is married and has one son.

The Blue Ridge Quartet

The Blue Ridge Quartet, formed in 1946, consists of four singers: LaVerne Tripp, lead; Burl Strevel, bass; Bill Crowe, baritone; Don Seabolt, tenor, and Kenny Gates, pianist. Backing them musically is the Mark Four group. As a gospel singing quartet, the Blue Ridge ranks as the nation's number one group and their innumerable personal appearance tours have taken them the length and breadth of this country. In 1971 they played over 311 dates in 36 states and Canada including 51 State and County Fairs. They have their own syndicated half-hour weekly television show in 31 markets. They appear regularly on the Jamboree and in 1970 were chosen as the most popular entertainers on the Jamboree and WWVA Radio. They are the only Gospel Quartet requested to sing for the U.S. Senators in Washington, D.C. Their list of hit records is almost endless - some favorites are "How Great Thou Art"; "Wings of a Dove"; "Born Again"; "I Am A Pilgrim"; "I Know." LaVerne Tripp is also an accomplished songwriter and in 1971 won the award of songwriter of the year for his hit song "I Know." They travel around the country by bus living in and operating from Spartanburg, South Carolina.



Fred Daniel

Fred Daniel was born in Porterdale, Georgia and now lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He has been in country and gospel music for 25 years and a member of the Jamboree since 1949. Fred has recently retired from active personal appearances with the Blue Ridge Quartet, of which he was a member for 26 years. Prior to joining the Blue Ridge, he was a member of the original Sunshine Boys, who first appeared on the Jamboree in 1949. He records on the Canaan label and, with the Blue Ridge Quartet, has released many, many hit records. His personal appearance tours with the Quartet over the years run into the hundreds, playing schools, parks, theatres and churches in countless states. He makes an occasional appearance with the Quartet when they tour, but spends most of his time as office manager for the group at their Spartanburg, S. C. headquarters. Aside from music, Fred is interested in electronics. He is married, the father of two children.



Lee Moore

Lee Moore was born in Circleville, Ohio and has lived in Wheeling, West Virginia for 22 years. He has been in country music for 36 years and a regular member of the Jamboree for 22 years. He is best known to his fans as the "Coffee Drinking Night Hawk", so named for his 20 years of night broadcasting over WWVA. He records for Rural Rythmn records and past releases include: 'The Cat Came Back': 'I Saw The Light': 'The Wildwood Flower': 'Dark As A Dungeon': 'Remember Me'; 'Own Sweet Darling Wife'. He has toured the U.S. and Canada, appearing at schools, outdoor parks and night clubs. In addition to his singing and playing, he also has an unusual Magic Trick routine which he performs on appearances. Outside interests: Fishing and hunting. Lee is married, his wife's name is Ersi.

Bob Gallion

Bob Gallion was born in Ashland, Kentucky and now lives in Wheeling, W. Va. He has been in country music for 22 years and joined the Jamboree in 1952. Bob has his own show, featuring Patti Powell, and they tour all over the eastern half of the U.S. He records for Hickory Records and has had 109 singles with 6 top five records in addition to many chart records. Country music is Bob's main interest. He is married and has one child.



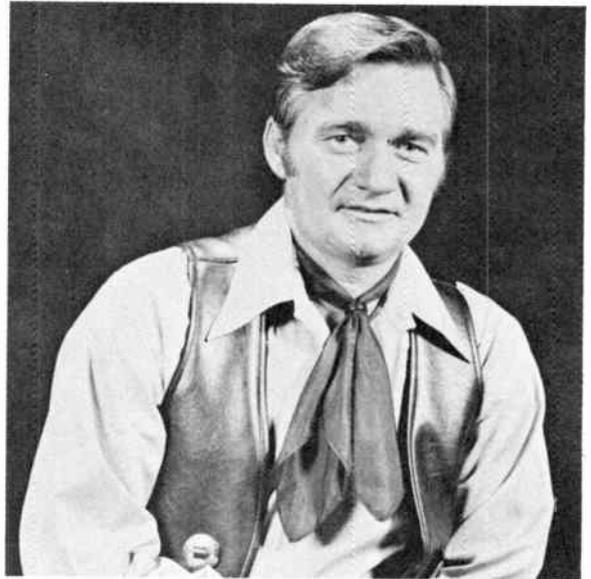
Red Allen And The Allen Brothers

Red Allen was born in Hazard, Kentucky and now makes his home in Dayton, Ohio. He has been in country music for 25 years and appearing on the Jamboree since 1957. He records for Starday, County and LemCo Records and past releases include: "Once More"; "Teardrops In My Eyes": "It Hurts To Know": "Aching Heart". Red and his group appear at Bluegrass Festivals and night clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada. Appearing with him are the Allen boys: Ronnie, Neal, Greg and Hadley.



Skinney Clark

Skinney Clark was born in Thompsonville, Pa. and now lives in Canonsburg, Pa. He has been in country music for 23 years and a member of the Jamboree since 1958. He has recorded on the Great label. Skinney is currently appearing at clubs in Bethel Park, Pa. and Pittsburgh, Pa. In addition, he plays outdoor shows, fairs, carnival's and parks in the northeastern states. Outside interests: driving stock cars and motorcycles. Skinney is married and has five children.



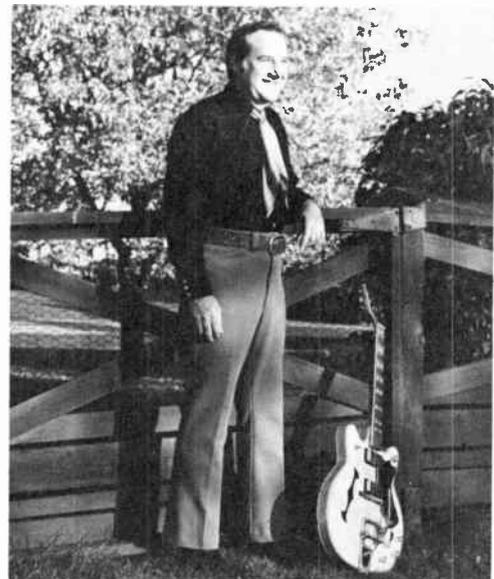
Kenny Biggs

Kenny Biggs was born in Sleepy Creek, West Virginia and now lives in Aliquippa, Penna. He has been in country music for 35 years and joined the Jamboree in August, 1960. In his custom equipped bus, with his five piece band, 'The Talismen', Kenny tours all the eastern states performing in major shows, fairs, expositions and clubs. He appeared in the special Jamboree shows at Mannington, W. Va. and the Man & His World Expo in Canada. He records on the Jamboree U.S.A. label and his recordings include "Chasin' Rainbows"; and "It's A Woman", recorded on the Basic Wheeling label. "Chasin' Rainbows" is also the title of one of Kenny Biggs' albums, recorded live from the Jamboree stage. Kenny has toured the SAC military bases at Thule and Sonderstromn, Greenland and appeared at Buck Lake Ranch, Angola, Indiana; Topsfield Fair, Mass.; Kutztown Fair and Indiana County Fair. He owns the Bigg Country Talent Agency and is a lifetime member of the CMA. Prior to joining the Jamboree, Kenny served as D J, music director and program director of WEEP radio in Pittsburgh. Country music is Kenny's main interest and when time permits, "I just love to go fishin'."



Kenny Roberts

Kenny Roberts was born in Tennessee, raised in Massachusetts and now lives in Dayton, Ohio. He has been in country music for 29 years and a member of the Jamboree for 11 years. He records on the Starday label in the U.S. and on the Point label in Canada. His recording of "I Never See Maggie Alone" was a million-seller and other hits include: "She Taught Me To Yodel": "Chocolate Ice Cream Cone": "Bluebird on Your Windowsill": "Indian Love Call": "Jealous Heart." He is a full-time country music performer and appeared in Madison Square Garden where he won the World's Yodeling Championship. His personal appearance tours are far too numerous to mention and he has been featured on every TV and Radio Network currently showing and playing. Outside interests: golfing, fishing and hunting. Kenny is married and has 8 children. Three of the boys are also in country music, following right along in their famous father's footsteps.





Jimmy Stephens

Jimmy Stephens was born in Hartford, Conn. and now lives in Claysville, Pa. He has been in country music for 15 years and a member of the Jamboree for 10 years. He toured to Toronto with the Jamboree to perform at the Man & His World Expo and played a special Christmas /New Year's show at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. He appears at clubs, fairs, schools and parks. He records on the Stop and Mark V record labels and releases include: "Afraid": "Behind The Wall": "Night Life": "Hello Young Lovers". Jimmy has made personal appearances with Loretta Lynn, George Morgan, Hank Snow, Bobby Bare, Tex Ritter and others. His outside interests are building model planes, song writing, bowling, horses and chess.



Charlie Moore (And The Dixie Partners)

Charlie Moore was born in Piedmont, South Carolina and is presently living there. He has been in country music for 20 years and is leader of his own Bluegrass band, The Dixie Partners. He first appeared on the Jamboree in 1964 and remained with it until 1967. He returned in September 1971. He records for Starday-King records and releases include: 'Truck Drivers' Queen': 'Georgia Bound': 'Legend of The Rebel Soldier.' Charlie and his group play at parks, Bluegrass festivals, stage shows, clubs and fairs. Members of his group are: Henry Dickery, Larry Jefferson, Butch Robins and Terry Baucom. Charlie Moore is married and the father of two girls.



Mary Lou Turner

Mary Lou Turner was born in Hazard, Kentucky and now lives in Dayton, Ohio. She has been in country music for 13 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree since November 1965. She has participated in special Jamboree tour shows to Chicago and New York City. These shows were presented at the request of the Travel Development Division of the West Virginia Dept. of Commerce. She has also traveled through Canada and to Thule, Greenland doing country music shows. She records on the Jamboree USA label and recordings to date are: 'If God Can Forgive You (So Can I): 'To The Other Woman.' Aside from the Jamboree, Mary Lou has played numerous NCO Clubs at military bases throughout the U.S. Outside interests: sewing and being a housewife and mother. Mary Lou is married (to a musician) and they have two children, a boy and a girl.

Johnny Dollar

Johnny Dollar was born in Kilgore, Texas, raised in Oklahoma and says "Oklahoma is my home." He now lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been in country music for 19 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree for 7 years. He records for Million Records (comedy) and Gimini Records (Country.) Hit recordings include: 'Stop the Start': 'Tear Talk': 'The Rain Falls in Denver Tonight': 'Big Rig Rollin' Man': 'Everybody's Gotta Be Somewhere': 'Truck Driver's Lament': and albums 'Mr. Personality': 'Johnny Dollar': 'Country Hit Parade'. Bookings take him across the U.S., Canada and Hawaii. Prior to joining the Jamboree, he was a regular on the Big D Jamboree in Dallas, Texas and the Louisiana Hayride. He has also made numerous guest appearances on the Grand Ole Opry. Outside interests: writing songs, fishing, sells automobiles. Past recordings have been on the Columbia, Dot, Chart, "D" Records, Date and Winston label. Johnny is married and has one step-son.



Darnell Miller

Darnell Miller was born in Bland County, Virginia, now lives in Wheeling, West Virginia and still retains a residence in Bland County. He has been in country music for 20 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree since Jan. 1966. He currently records on the Deneba label. Past releases include: 'Hinges On The Door': (on Challenge) 'World Best Better Half': (on Challenge). He has made guest appearances on many country music TV shows and has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry. He is currently playing parks, fairs and clubs in a 15 state area of Wheeling. Outside interests: golfing, swimming and studying Civil War history as well as visiting Civil War battlefields etc. Darnell is married, wife's name is Alonia Sue and they have one son.



Van Trevor

Van Trevor was born in Lewiston, Maine and now makes his home in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been in the country music field for 8 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree for 6 years. He has had a number of record releases: 'Born To Be In Love With You': 'Our Side': 'He's Losing His Mind': 'You've Been So Good To Me': 'Take Me Along With You': 'Luziana River': 'Wish I Was Home Instead': 'A Man Away From Home': 'The Things That Matter'. Aside from being a country music performer, Van is studying psychology for a Ph.D and will eventually enter private practice. He is married with one child.



The Compton Brothers, Harry & Bill

The Compton Brothers were born in Bonne Terre, Missouri. Harry now lives in Bold Springs, Tennessee and Bill lives in Madison, Tennessee. They have been in country music for 17 years and regular performers on the Jamboree for 5 years. They record on the Dot label and releases include "Haunted House": "Charlie Brown": "Yellow River". Their act includes comedy as well as country, rock and pop style music and they have toured extensively throughout the U.S. as well as Europe, Canada and Hawaii. Outside interests are horses, hunting and sports. Both are married and have children.



Gus Thomas

Gus Thomas was born in Columbia, Penna. and now lives in Wheeling, W. Va. He has been in country music, off and on, for 20 years, with a stint at managing a radio station. He has been a regular member of the Jamboree for 5 years and has served as both assistant and acting director of the Jamboree. In 1969 he took over the all-night show over WWVA Radio and in 1971 was awarded D. J. of the year. He was official singing-host of the Jamboree for one year. He has the unique distinction of having sung the last song on the last show played at Jamboree Hall on Wheeling Island, and sang the first song on the first show when the Jamboree opened in the Capitol Music Hall in December 1969. With Jo Ann, he has participated in all the Jamboree tour shows and did the all-night show, over remote phone lines, from Toronto and Montreal. He records for Jamboree U.S.A. label and releases are: "Anything Goes For The Love of Rose": and "Daddy Don't You Walk So Fast". Gus is M C of the Saturday night Mac Wiseman Record Shop which follows the Jamboree over WWVA radio. Outside interests: bowling, playing poker, reading (World War II history.) Gus is married . . . to Jo Ann and has a 9 year old daughter, Mary Ann.

Jo Ann Thomas

Jo Ann Thomas was born in Harrisburg, Pa. and now lives in Wheeling, W. Va. She has been in country music for 22 years and a regular member of the Jamboree for 5 years. She has traveled to Toronto, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and the Bahamas on special Jamboree tours and was the only female performer on the Jamboree Christmas 1971 live broadcast from the Moundville Penitentiary. She records on the American Voices label and, with her husband Gus, has released "Little Bitty Tear" and "How Did It Start and Where Will It End?" Jo Ann, with Gus, has toured extensively throughout the country, appearing on TV shows, at clubs, fairs and parks. She has also been instrumental in launching the careers of many currently well-known country music entertainers. Outside interests: bowling, songwriting, collecting antique dishes and theatre. Jo Ann is married . . . to Gus and they have a 9 year old daughter, Mary Ann, who frequently appears with them on the Jamboree.





Les Seevers

Les Seevers was born in Albany, Georgia and now lives in Cornwells Heights, Pennsylvania. He has been in country music for 17 years and a member of the Jamboree since 1968. He has appeared in special Jamboree shows at the Wheeling Hospital and at the Moundsville Prison. He records on the Jamboree U.S.A. label and recordings are: "Lily": "Loneliness": "What Kind of Magic": "Purest Pearl": "Hometown In Georgia." With his band, The Countrymen, Les is on the road week nights playing at various locations in eastern states. His musical background includes work as music director and D. J. for several years at other radio stations. He also had a TV country music show in Philadelphia. Sporting activities are his main outside interest. Les is married and has six children.



Frank Necessary

Frank Necessary was born in Boonescamp, Kentucky and presently lives in Ashland, Ohio. He has been in country music for 29 years and became a member of the Jamboree in 1968. His three piece band, the Stone Mountain Boys, joined him on the Jamboree in October 1971. They are: Bill Highman, Don Highman and Leslie Feiber. In addition to country music, the group specializes in Bluegrass tunes and has recorded "Blue Train" and "No More Tomorrows" on the Old Homestead label. Frank is married. Outside interests: fishing and hunting.



Junior Norman

Junior Norman was born in McConnelsville, Ohio, now lives in Malta, Ohio. He has been in country music for 8 years and on the Jamboree for 4 years. He has played at Ponderosa Park, Salem, Ohio; Harolds' Club at Marietta, Ohio and numerous clubs in southeastern, Ohio. He claims that his work in country music is his sole interest. Junior is married and has six children.



Helen and Billy Scott

Helen Scott was born in New Haven, Indiana; Billy was born in Francesville, Indiana and they now make their home in Columbus, Ohio. They have been in the country music field since 1943 and signed with the Jamboree in 1969 as regular performers. They record for Chance records and their latest release is an album entitled "Songs You've Requested." It includes their most asked-for numbers, such as "Deck of Cards": "Green Green Grass of Home": "There Goes My Everything": and a yodel song by Helen, "Alpine Sweetheart." Prior to joining the Jamboree, they were featured on the Midwestern Hayride TV show for 12 years; appearing on both NBC and ABC TV networks in summer replacement shows. They also appeared on the syndicated Hayride TV series for 2½ years. They make many personal appearances throughout the mid-west during the year, playing at clubs, theatres, fairs, parks and auditoriums. Outside interests: Helen, interior decorating, song writing, refinishing antique furniture. Billy: Administrator of a Columbus nursing home. They were married in 1950 and are the parents of three children.

Patti Powell

Patti Powell was born in Atlanta, Georgia and now lives in Wheeling, W. Va. She has been in country music for three years and a member of the Jamboree for three years. She tours the eastern states and Canada with the Bob Gallion show between Jamboree appearances. Patti records on the Hickory Records label and past releases are: "Long Haul Widow": "The Best Way to Hold A Man": "Your Boots Are By The Door": "Not Once, But A Hundred Times". At the present time, all her activities are devoted to country music. Patti is married.



Tater Tate and The Shenandoah Valley Cut-Ups

Clarence E. (Tater) Tate was born in Gate City, Virginia and now lives in Hollins, Virginia. He has been in country music for over 20 years and has been a regular performer on the Jamboree for 3 years. 'Tater' has played on numerous radio stations throughout the south over the years and with his group, the Shenandoah Valley Cut-Ups, they appeared at Bluegrass Festivals during the 1969/70 season. They also played in Boston, Mass., bringing a little Dixie Bluegrass to the Yankees up north. 'Tater' Tate is fiddle player with the group, Billy Edwards plays banjo, John Palmer on the bass, Herschel Sizemore plays mandolin and Wesley Golding (age 17) plays guitar and sings lead. 'Tater' has written two songs: "Special Message", and "Tater's Reel," an instrumental.

Bob Wood

Bob Wood was born in Marshall, Virginia; now lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee. He has been in country music for 24 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree for 3 years. He has appeared on Jamboree tours throughout Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Maryland. He records on the MRC (Major Recording Co.) label. His most successful record to date is the LP "Bob Wood Plays It Cool" an instrumental. He has recently completed a series of shows throughout the New England states, with appearances scheduled for Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Vermont. Outside interests: flying, Bob is a certified FAA licensed private pilot. Hunting, fishing and riding in addition to writing most of the material he records, are some of Bob's other interests. He also works as lead guitarist for recording sessions. Bob is married, has 8 children.

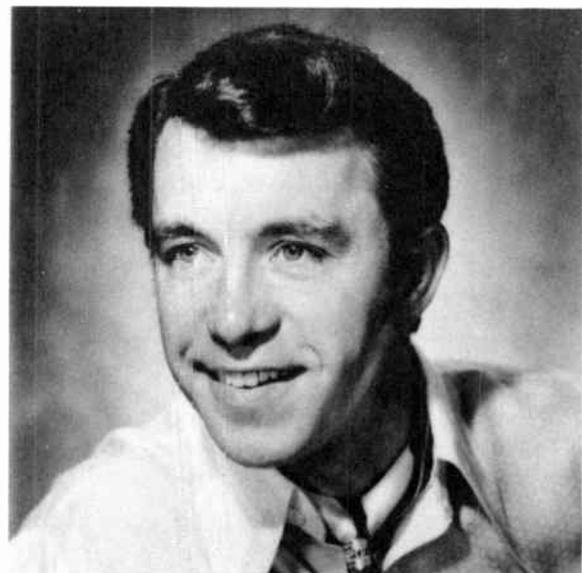


Slim Lehart

Slim Lehart was born in Calis, West Virginia and now lives in Wheeling, West Virginia. He has been in country music for ten years and a regular member of the Jamboree for three years. He was one of the Jamboree entertainers who played for the inmates at the Moundsville Penitentiary in the special Jamboree broadcast from there on Christmas, 1971. He also appeared on the Jamboree show attended by several hundred members of the British Country Music Assoc. He records on the Deneba label, and his recent recording is "Put A Little Sunshine In My Soul." Slim plays clubs and parks throughout the eastern states and is currently appearing at the Slim Lehart Lounge in Wheeling, with his band, The Wheeling Express. He was chosen artist of the month by the West Virginia Music Scene publication and was awarded a plaque by The U.S. Marine Reserve Center in recognition of his outstanding performance in Country Music. Slim is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Eastern States Country Music, Inc.

Bud Cutright

Bud Cutright was born in Cowen, West Virginia and now lives in Munroe Falls, Ohio, close to Akron. He has been in country music for 15 years and a regular Jamboree artist since January 1970. Bud does a lot of traveling on personal appearances and was a member of the Jamboree tour group that went to New York and Philadelphia. He played in the first Jamboree broadcast from the Moundsville, W. Va. Penitentiary on Christmas 1971. He toured with the Jamboree on shows presented at Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C. and the West Virginia Arts and Crafts Fair in 1970. He records for Jamboree USA records and his last release was "You Left Too Much", which made No. 3 on numerous play lists in 1969. Between Jamboree appearances, Bud works clubs in eastern U.S. and Canada. During the summer, with Patti Joy and The Wheelers, he plays fairs throughout the midwest. In 1970, Bud was installed in the West Virginia Hall of Fame at Richwood. Outside interests: guitar building. Bud is the father of two boys.



Dody Lynn

Dody Lynn was born in Cuba, New York and now lives in Fillmore, New York. She has been in country music for 5 years and signed with the Jamboree in 1970. She records for STOP records and her current release is "Neither Can I." She has played clubs in New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania and other eastern states in addition to appearing on many benefit shows. Outside interests: sewing and clothes designing, knitting, crocheting and cooking. Dody is married and has four children.



Freddy Carr

Freddy Carr was born in Knox County, Tennessee but claims Spartanburg, South Carolina as his home. He now lives in Wheeling, West Virginia. He formed his first band at age 12, played local church gatherings, fairs, square dances. appeared on radio and TV in the south. Made first Jamboree appearance in 1965, signed as regular performer on April 25, 1970. Has participated in special Jamboree tour shows in Montreal, Canada ("Man & His World Expo") and Chicago, Illinois (Chicago Travel Exposition). Has played the Belvedere Hotel, Philadelphia and Hotel Plaza, New York. Appeared in special Jamboree broadcast for world premier of motion picture "Fools' Parade" in Wheeling, W. Va. Records for Jamboree USA records. Hit records: 'This Song's Just For You': 'Maybe She'll Find Out': 'The Name of the Game': 'I'll Remember You': 'A Dime Away': 'You've Got What It Takes'. Two top-ten records in Canada: 'In My Memory': 'He's Gotta Catch Me First'. Has toured over 30 states, appearing at fairs, parks, concerts, night clubs. Outside interests: golfing and fishing. Owns an interest in two booking and promotion firms. Freddy is married, wife's name is Barbara Gail.



Karen McKenzie

Karen McKenzie, youngest daughter of Doc and Chickie Williams, was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and presently makes her home there. She has been in country music for twenty-four years, appearing onstage with her sisters as part of the Doc Williams show. She first appeared on the Jamboree when she was four years old and has been on the show frequently over the years. She was signed as a regular performer in 1970. Karen has traveled all over the Eastern section of the U.S. and Canada, appearing at numerous fairs and parks, traveling with the Doc Williams show. Karen is married and has a 2 year old son, Ronald 'Andy' McKenzie. Aside from country music, she enjoys horseback riding, swimming, tennis and golf.





Lynn Stewart

Lynn Stewart was born in Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania and is now living in Richmond, Virginia. She has been in country music for 10 years and performing on the Jamboree for 2 years. She was a member of the Jamboree U.S.A. group Tour to Nassau and the Grand Bahama Islands in April 1972. She is currently recording on the BW (Basic Wheeling) label and releases to date are: 'Gone Fishin': 'Your Gone': 'Try Being More Of A Man': 'Little Ones Know.' She is currently appearing at Howard's in Richmond, Virginia and plays military base NCO clubs along the east coast from Maine to Florida. She is also appearing in other private clubs, auditorium shows and coliseum shows on the east coast. Outside interests are: horses, fishing, painting and running her own business, "The Lynn Stewart Western Shop." She was voted the No. 1 Female Country Music Singer for the State of Virginia and Queen of Country Music for Virginia. Lynn is also a song writer and plays bass. She is married and has a 6 year old daughter.

Stan Jr.

Stan Jr. was born in Boston, Mass. and presently lives in Burlington, Mass. He has been in country music since his early teens and in January 1971 was signed as a regular member of the Jamboree. At 18 he recorded his first country record, "Whoops, There Goes Love Again" and "Did She Really Love Me." Other releases are "A City Boy's Dream": "Doll Gone Lonesome": and his most recent recording on the B-W label, "Remember Me, I'm The One Who Loves You": "When I Loved Her." Stan Jr. has a national fan club with headquarters in Norton, Mass. Before being inducted in the armed forces, he had his own television show. Outside interests: golfing. He likes: Italian food. He dislikes: "people who won't admit they like country music." Stan Jr. is single.



George Elliott

George Elliott was born in Newton, New Jersey and now divides his residence between there and Wheeling, W. Va. He has been in country music for 8 years and a regular performer on the Jamboree for one year. He has appeared in special Jamboree shows at Shade Gap, Penna.; Bromptonville, Quebec, Canada and the Don Bosco College Auditorium shows. He currently records on the Arby label and his "Stranger On The Bridge" recording made number 21 on national play lists in U.S. and Canada. In addition to appearances on the Jamboree, George, with his band "The Elites", play shows all over eastern U.S., especially in the New York, New Jersey area. He has made guest appearances on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. George is single and outside interests are hunting, fishing, song-writing and girl-watching!



Landon Williams

Landon Williams was born in Barbourville, Kentucky and now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has been in country music for seven years and signed on the Jamboree as a regular performer in August 1971. He is currently recording on the GNP Crescendo label and present releases are: "He Can't Fill My Shoes": "God's Gift to Women". Landon and his six-piece band, The Hardtime, are currently playing nightly at the Country Corral in Cincinnati. They have recently completed an eleven month engagement at the Toga Lounge in Cincinnati. When not appearing in clubs, Landon and his group make personal appearance tours at fairs and parks throughout the northeast. Outside interests: hunting and fishing. Landon is married and has four children.

Heather and The Lynn Sisters

Heather was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., the Lynn sisters were born in Turtle Creek, Pa. All three now reside in their hometowns. Heather has been in country music for one year, prior to that she was strictly a pop singer. The Lynn sisters "grew up" with country music and have always been country and western artists. They joined as a singing trio in mid-1971 and signed with the Jamboree on October 2, 1971. They record for Chatham Records and to date, their releases are: Heather; "Follow Me Back To Louisville": "Please Don't Play Games With Me". Lynn Sisters; "Someone Else Is Doing My Thing": "The Answer to Everything". The group plays county fairs, country clubs, private shows and has made appearances at Ponderosa Park. Outside interests: Heather: sewing, swimming, pool. Diana Lynn: sewing, writing, cooking, bowling. Donna Lynn: tennis, basketball, gardening. Heather is married and has a two year old boy. The Lynn sisters are single.



Joe Pain

Joe Pain was born in Harlan, Kentucky and now lives in Wayne, Michigan. He has been in country music for 6 years and a regular member of the Jamboree since January 1972. Country music recordings to date are: "Down At Kelley's": "Denver Woman": "Sugar Creek Bottom." He makes personal appearances at clubs from Massachusetts to Colorado and from Florida to Montreal. Outside interests: all sports, particularly baseball and football. Joe is single.

Ray Kirkland

Ray Kirkland was born in Dothan, Alabama and now lives in Gallatin, Tennessee. He has been in country music for 18 years and a member of the Jamboree since January 1972. He records for Chart Records and releases to date include: "Today's Teardrops": "Another Saturday Night." Outside interests: fishing and hunting. Ray is married and has two children.



Mike Lattimore, The Banjo Dude

Mike Lattimore, known to his fans as The Banjo Dude, was born in Shelby, North Carolina. He now lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been in country music for 15 years and a regular member of the Jamboree since January 1972. He records for Mansion Records and his current release is "Grandfather's Clock." Mike is married and has three children.

Dave Smith

Dave "Little Hoss" Smith was born in Clarksville, Tennessee and currently resides there. He has been in country music for 3 years and a regular member of the Jamboree for six months. His current release, on the Mansion label, is "Boy, Learn to Play That Guitar." Dave has played numerous NCO clubs at military bases and country music parks. Still a teen-ager, Dave says his only outside interest is "Girls! Pretty ones who like country music."



Johnny Russell

Johnny Russell was born in Sunflower County, Miss., and now lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been in country music since he was fifteen years old and signed with the Jamboree in March 1972. He records on the RCA label and releases to date are: "Mr. & Mrs. Untrue": "Rain Fallin' On Me": "What A Price": "Mr. Fiddleman." He tours the country several months each year appearing at outdoor parks, fairs, clubs and auditoriums. His hobby is song writing. Johnny Russell is married and has two children.



Jamboree Staff Band



Ray Couture

Ray Couture, known to early Jamboree fans as Abner Doolittle, was born in Lewiston, Maine and now makes his home in Bridgeport, Ohio. He has been in country music for 25 years and joined the Jamboree in 1952, brought to WWVA by the late Hawkshaw Hawkins with whom he played during a tour in the northeast. He became Jamboree staff band leader in 1954, a position he held through 1961. He has toured extensively throughout the eastern U.S. and in several Canadian provinces, playing with Big Slim, Hawkshaw Stoney Cooper & Wilma Lee and others. As lead guitarist, Abner recorded for RCA for many years, doing session work with Hawkshaw Hawkins, Hal 'Lone' Pine, Blue Ridge Quartet, Doc Williams, Tommy Sands and Buddy Durham. At the present time, Ray is an account executive for WWVA but is also in partnership with Doc Williams and co-owner of Wheeling Music and Publishing Co. He is currently appearing weekly on the Jamboree as a member of the staff band. Outside interests: song writing and fishing. Ray is married and has six children.

Stan Childers

Stan Childers was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia and now lives in Wheeling. He has been in country music for four years and a Jamboree performer since 1970. A fiddle player of considerable talent and presently a member of the Jamboree staff band, Stan has toured with Doc Williams, Bob Gallion, Patti Powell and Kenny Biggs on Jamboree road shows. He records on the Jamboree B W label and his current release is "Stan Childers, Mountain Fiddle." Aside from the Jamboree tours, Stan has played the Peterboro Fair in Ontario and numerous other fairs in New England and northeastern states. Outside interests: hunting, fishing and 'eating.' Stan is the father of a 15 year old daughter.





Harold Fogle

Harold Fogle was born in Newport News, Virginia and now lives in Columbus, Ohio. His background includes a family of country music entertainers and Harold has been playing country music "all my life." He first appeared on the Jamboree in 1968 with Jimmy Stephens and joined the Jamboree staff band as steel player in June 1972. In July 1968 he played in Canada on Jamboree tours. He formerly worked on the road with Loretta Lynn and worked part time tours with Pee Wee King. He has also done session work in Nashville. Outside interests: electronics, auto racing, bowling, fishing and "playing with my kids." He drove race cars for a while, has been a machinist and works closely with Marlen Guitar Company of Reidsville, N.C. Harold is married and the father of six children.

Rick Erickson

Rick Erickson was born in Brown Mills, New Jersey but grew up and attended school in Clearwater, Florida. He now lives in Wheeling, West Virginia. He has been in country music for 12 years and a member of the Jamboree staff band. The Country Roads, since February 1972. He has been a radio disc jockey in Trenton, N. J. and Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Rick has traveled in every state on country music shows, also England, Canada and Mexico. He has worked with Little Jimmy Dickens, Stonewall Jackson and Tommy Cash. Outside interests: song-writing and sports, especially hockey. Rick is married and has a two year old son.



Roger Hoard

Roger Hoard was born in Sutton, West Virginia and now lives in Wheeling. He is a 1972 graduate of East High School, Akron, Ohio and plans to attend college, majoring in music. He has been a member of the Country Roads (Jamboree Staff Band) for two years as a lead guitarist. He also plays on studio recording sessions. Playing guitar is his favorite hobby, even though it's his work but he also likes golfing and "getting lost in the country!"

In Memoriam

These we hold in memory, for they have rightfully earned a cherished place in Jamboree history.



RED BELCHER



BIG SLIM, THE LONE COWBOY



PETE CASSELL



HUGH CROSS



KATHY DEE



HAWKSHAW HAWKINS



FRANKIE MORE



SMOKEY PLEACHER



SUNFLOWER



ELTON BRITT

NOT PICTURED

BILL BURKHARDT
 CAP & ANDY
 CHEROKEE SUE
 LEW CHILDRE
 COWBOY COPAS
 COWBOY LOYE
 FROGGIE CORTEZ
 FRED CRADDOCK
 LAZY JIM DAY
 SHORTY FINCHER
 HIRAM HAYSEED

CHUCK HENDERSON
 BENNY KISSINGER
 BUDGE & FUDGE MAYSE
 GERTRUDE MILLER
 PAUL MILLER
 TOMMY NELSON
 MURRELL POOR
 THE SHEEPHERDER
 RED SMILEY
 GEORGE W. SMITH
 CHARLES TWEEDY

Behind-the-Scenes



Every Jamboree fan knows Jean Miller - she's as much a part of the Jamboree as any entertainer - and she keeps everything under control in the Box Office.



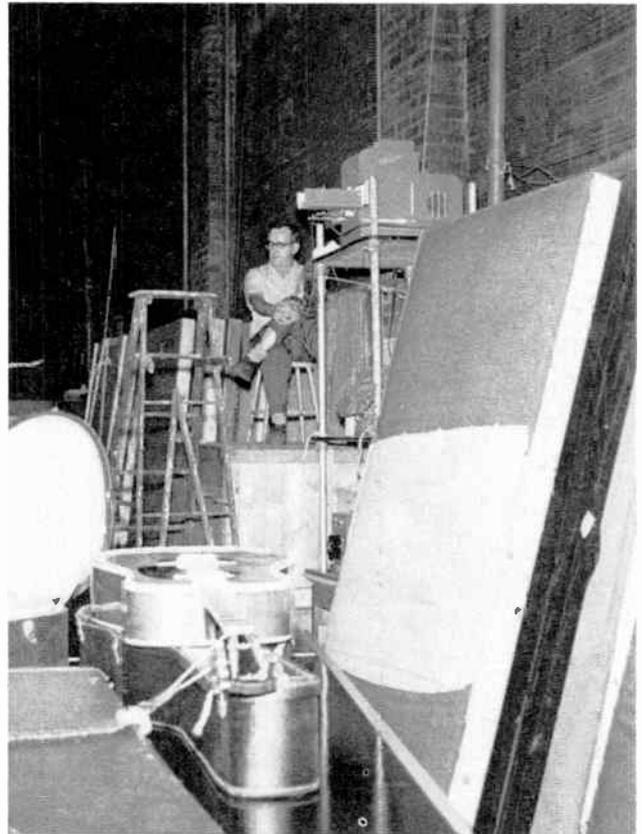
Curtain going up! It's show time!



"Okay fellas, let's try it in the key of C" - Kenny Biggs & Jamboree Staff Band rehearsing Kenny's songs before the show.



It's the job of stage manager Monty Blake to keep the Jamboree artists "on tap" for their stage appearances.



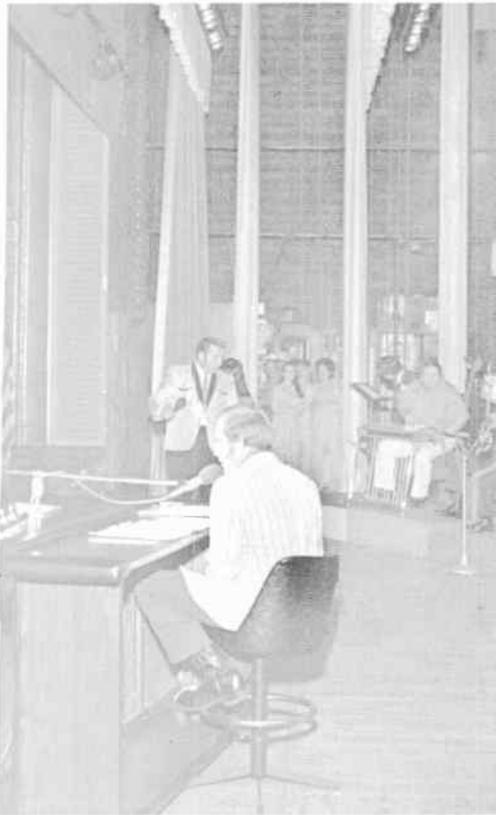
And here's the man, on his perch, who projects those colorful commercials and Jamboree Logos on screen for the Jamboree Audience.



"Now look here, I know who you are, but you still have to sign in - just like everyone else."



The Oglebay Promenaders swing through a fast number to the fiddle tunes of Tater Tate.



Jamboree Emcee Steve Mazure, keeps every Saturday night show smoothly flowing - on the stage and over the air.



"Now just say 'Hi' to the folks back home" . . . Ted James chats with a few Jamboree fans between shows.



Everyone comes to the Jamboree!



"We just can't go home from the Jamboree without a souvenir cowbell or coffee mug for Aunt Sally . . ."

Under the direction and guidance of Mr. Emil Mogul, President of Basic Communications, Inc., and owner of WWVA Radio which incorporates Jamboree U.S.A., the years 1962 through 1972 were truly outstanding in the history of the radio station. Mr. Mogul took an active part in the planning and operation of the corporation and was instrumental in inaugurating numerous format changes and improvements in broadcast standards.

Effective September 1, 1972, a change in ownership of the corporation became effective and WWVA Radio and Jamboree U.S.A. became part of Screen Gems Radio Stations, Inc., a division of Columbia Pictures Industries.

In view of the many contributions made by WWVA and Jamboree U.S.A. to the promotion of country music and to the advancement of the West Virginia image, West Virginia Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr. publicly recognized the Jamboree's efforts and achievements in awarding a plaque at the Jamboree anniversary on December 11, 1971.

In accepting the Jamboree award, Mr. Mogul set the pattern for the future by saying, ". . . and the best is yet to come!"

Autographs

