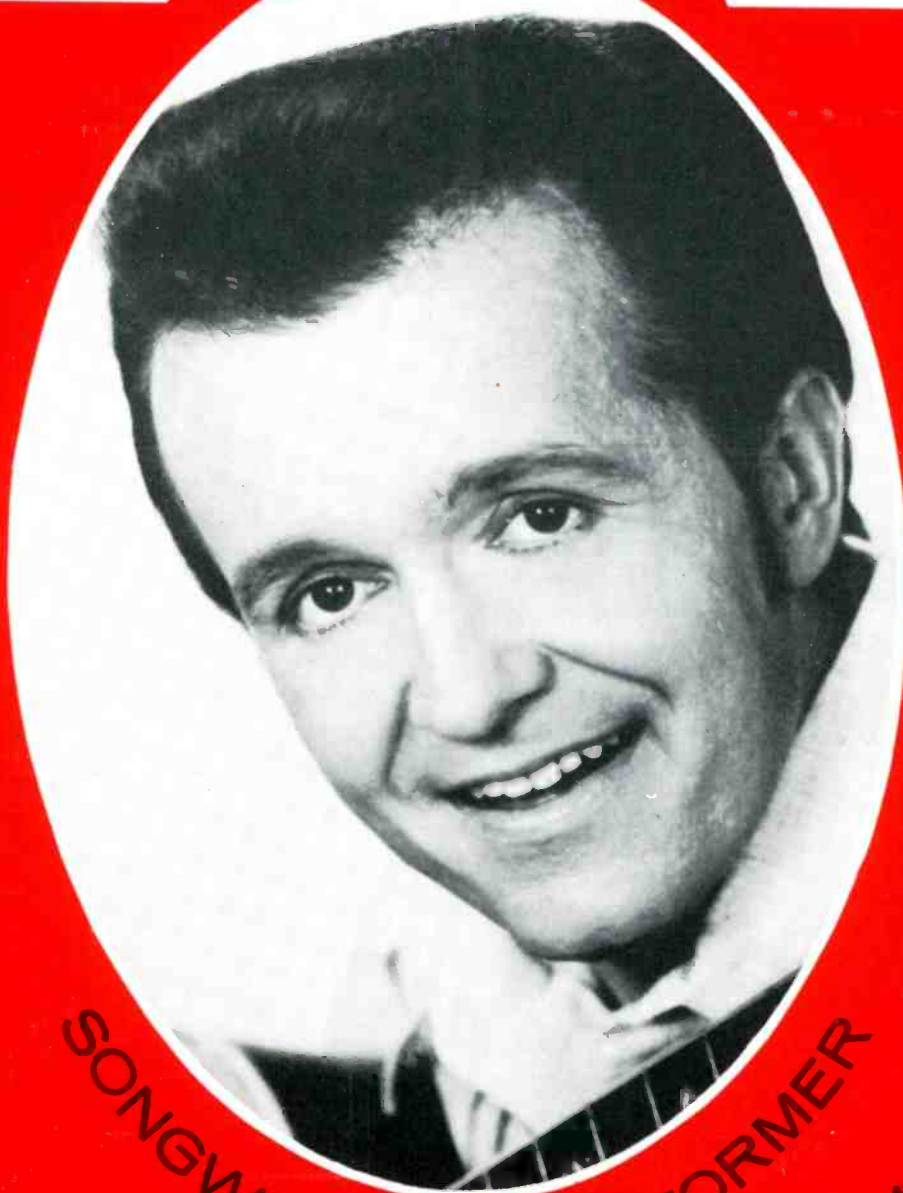


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MCA RECORDS

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1973-74: Country Broadens its Base

By RED O'DONNELL

OCTOBER

■ **Buck Owens** was preparing for his annual sponsorship of a golf tournament at Bakersfield Country Club. A country country club? . . . **Eddy Raven** riding high with "Southern Queen" on ABC . . . Veteran **Hugh (Baby) Jarrett** joined Bouncy **Bill Lowery's** music publishing firms as a special rep. Plug them Lowery catalogues, Hugh Baby! . . . GRC signed the **Lonzo-Oscar** duo to a disc deal and **Wally (The Warrior) Cochran** forecast that two new stars had been reborn . . . **Tanya Tucker** got a mile high. Don't jump to any conclusions. I only mean she visited Denver, Colo.

Mel Tillis appeared on the Tonight Show and it was almost time for the Today Show before he got through stuttering through his first story . . . Singing or stuttering, Mel's mah boy . . . "Full Moon" lp by **Kris Kristofferson** & wife **Rita Coolidge** racking up sales . . . **Bobby Lewis'** first for Ace of Hearts label, "Too Many Memories," scored a grand slam—well, at least a little slam.

Early October found **Merle Haggard's** "I Love Dixie Blues" no. 1 on the RW country album chart . . . "Red Necks, White Socks and Blue Ribbon Beer" was big as the genial guy who recorded it for RCA—**Johnny Russell** . . . **Nat Stuckey's** "Got Leaving On Her Mind" got a pick . . . Pageant magazine, in-cover story, described MCA's **Loretta Lynn** as "The Country Music Entertainer of 1973-74."

Singer **Jim (Kid Cuz'n) West** commented: "My wife, the shopper, would make a great tennis player. She returns everything" . . . **Mickey Newbury** said: "I wish reporters would quit spelling my name 'Newberry.' They make me feel like a stick of chewing gum from the Newberry people." . . . He waxes poetic, yon Mickey? . . . Blind singer-pianist **Ronnie Milsap** joined **Charley Pride's** show for a series of concerts . . . Nice lady **Bonnie (Mrs. Merle Haggard) Owens** celebrated a birthday . . . **Jerry Clower**, the "Mouth of Mississippi," made a

speech . . . **Skeeter Davis'** home burg of Dry Ridge, Ky. (pop. 4,000) was "saluted" on a "Hee Haw" TV show.

Songwriter **Eddie Miller** ("Release Me") said it—"Songs should be written from the heart, not the mind. And," he added, "it isn't necessary that the lines always should rhyme." . . . What? No June, moon, spoon, croon and stuff like that thar? **Johnny Paycheck's** Epic single of "Song and Dance Man" had the natives singing and dancing.

An idler on Music Row asked: "What ever happened to **Kinky Friedman?**" . . . A.Q. Talent celebrated its first anniversary. President **Quinnie Acuff** attended an ASCAP awards show . . . **Charley Pride's** "Amazing Love" was getting amazing results . . . **The Wilburn Bros.—Doyle & Teddy**—returned from a successful tour of Ireland and contemplated changing their names to Pat & Mike O'Wilburn . . . **Jack Benny Lynn**, son of **Loretta & Mooney Lynn**, returned from military duty in Korea . . . **Grandpa Jones** 'on a tour' encountered beaucoup trouble with his bus and almost blew a gasket—in his own head!

Diana Trask and **Mel Tillis** taped a sketch on ABC-TV's "Love, American Style" series . . . Hot film director **Robert Altman** was in Nashville drafting plans to shoot a movie titled "Nashville" . . . **Merle Haggard's** "If We Make It Through December" rated a RW pick—and that was some picking by the picker . . . **Joe Allen** wrote "The Midnight Oil" and **Barbara Mandrell** recorded it for Columbia. Hitsville! . . . **Jack Greene** was red hot with "I Need Somebody Bad."

Barbara Fairchild's latest no. 1 single was "Kid Stuff"—A **Don Earl** lyric? . . . **Mel Street** guested on the **Merv Griffin** syndicated TVer . . . "Goodbyes Don't Come Easy" was doing good things for **Warner Mack** on UA . . . Deejays were auditioning **Dolly Parton's** "Jolene" and commenting: "Here she goes again, boys—with another winner." . . . **Eddy Arnold** signed to host "The Country Hit Parade" for CBS-TV . . . **Chet Atkins** was still receiving congratulations on being named

(Continued on page 36)

The 49th Annual Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebration & DJ Convention 1974 AGENDA

October 11-13

10th Annual Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament. Harpeth Hills Golf Course (co-sponsored by CMA, Nashville Area Junior Chamber of Commerce, The Tennessean and WSM, Inc.)*

October 13-15

Talent Buyers Seminar—Sponsored by CMA*

Monday, October 14

9:00 p.m. CDT—8th Annual Country Music Association Awards Show, telecast live in color, via the CBS-TV Network from the Grand Ole Opry House*

Tuesday, October 15

9:00 a.m.—CMA's Fourth Quarterly Board Meeting—First American National Bank, Nashville*
BMI's Awards Banquet—Invitation only*

Wednesday, October 16

5:00 p.m.—Sho-Bud/Baldwin/Gretsch Birthday Celebration—Grand Ole Opry House
7:30 p.m.—Early Bird Bluegrass Concert—Grand Ole Opry House
8:00 p.m.—ASCAP's Awards Banquet—Invitation only*
10:30 p.m.—United Talent/Shure Brothers Show (Opry House)

Thursday, October 17

9:30 a.m.—CMA Annual Membership Meeting (lower level Municipal Auditorium)
11:30 - 2:00 p.m.—WSM Luncheon & Opry Spectacular (Mun. Aud.)
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.—CMA International Country Music Show (Mun. Aud.)
SESAC's Awards Banquet—Invitation only*

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.—United Artists Party & Show (Mun. Aud.)

10:00 p.m.—Playboy Records Party and Show—Sheraton Hotel*

Friday, October 18

8:00 a.m.—MCA Records Breakfast & Show (Mun. Aud.)
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Artists/DJ Tape Session #1 (lower level-Mun. Aud.)
12:00 p.m.—ABC-DOT Records Luncheon & Show (Mun. Aud.)
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.—Artists/DJ Tape Session #2 (lower level-Mun. Aud.)*
7:00 p.m.—CMA Banquet Cocktail Party (lower level-Mun. Aud.)*
8:00 p.m.—CMA Banquet Dinner (Mun. Aud.)*
9:00 p.m.—CMA Anniversary Banquet Show (Mun. Aud.)*

Saturday, October 19

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.—RCA Records Breakfast & Show (Mun. Aud.)
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.—Capitol Records Luncheon & Show (Mun. Aud.)
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.—Columbia Records Show (Mun. Aud.)
9:00 p.m.—Appreciation Concert at the War Memorial Auditorium*
9:30 p.m.—Grand Ole Opry 49th Birthday Celebration Show (Opry House)
10:00 p.m.—Atlas Artists Bureau—The Saturday Night Dance (lower level-Mun. Aud.)

Sunday, October 20

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Opryland U.S.A. (ticket included)

(*) Denotes tickets are not included in the Opry Birthday Celebration registration package; admittance by special arrangement only.

The Country Music Foundation: The First Decade

■ This year marks the tenth anniversary of *Record World*. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the Country Music Foundation—the organization responsible for the Hall of Fame and for the collecting and filing of the history of country music. To celebrate the anniversary of both these organizations, *Record World* is devoting this special part of the annual *Record World Country Music Spectacular* to the Country Music Foundation.

■ NASHVILLE—Over its ten years of existence, the Country Music Foundation has done much to bring a dream of country executives and performers to realization. Under the direction of its board of trustees, and with the leadership of executive director William Ivey, the Foundation has carried the Country Music Hall of Fame to a leadership role in the world of American museums, has established the international reputation of the Foundation Library and Media Center, and has encouraged research and education in the country music field through its publications program.

History

Though the Country Music Foundation, Inc. was chartered as a non-profit charitable and educational corporation in 1964, its history as an idea extends into the late 1950s. It was in that period that the concept of a Country Music Hall of Fame was first put forward by music-industry leaders. For several years the Hall of Fame was without a permanent home, and plaques honoring elected Hall of Fame members were housed in the Tennessee State Museum. In 1964, three years after the first member was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Country Music Foundation was established, and immediately began a fund-raising campaign within the music industry and the community of Nashville, aimed at financing a physical plant to house the Hall of Fame and an associated museum. The program gained support from many corporations and individuals, and construction of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum was initiated in 1966. The facility was opened to the public on April 1, 1967.



Fred Rose and Roy Acuff (mid-1940s)

The establishment of a research library was also an integral part of industry planning for the Hall of Fame facility. The Foundation, from its inception, contained two major subdivisions. The Hall of Fame and Museum—through the display of artifacts and the presentation of sight-and-sound exhibits—was directed toward the education of an audience with a general interest in the history of the country tradition. The Foundation Library and Media Center—housing the recordings and printed materials related to the country music industry—was designed to serve the needs of journalists, students and scholars pursuing in-depth research into subjects related to country music and commercial music generally.



Eddy Arnold & Chet Atkins perform on "Ozark Jubilee" TV show (late '50s)

Because the conceptual groundwork of the Country Music Foundation was well-laid, expansion efforts since the opening of the Hall of Fame building in 1967 have been directed toward gathering a professional staff in both the museum and library programs, and toward the creation of specific exhibits and projects which would enhance the educational aims of the Foundation. The industry—through the Foundation board of trustees—establishes priorities, allocates available funds and directs the execution of Foundation projects. Under this industry guidance, the Country Music Foundation has entered the field of educational publishing, has assisted recording companies in reissue projects designed to widen the availability of historical recordings, and has served the academic community through the establishment of seminars, the sponsorship of scholarly meetings, and through staff participation in the activities of national educational organizations. The Foundation now possesses qualified staff in its museum, library and publications programs, and is prepared to serve every interest in the country music tradition.



Bob Wills, Alex Brashear, Billy Jack Wills, Cliff ("Cactus Jack") Johnson, Junior Barnard, Tommy Duncan in California (ca. 1946)

As a private-sector educational organization, the Country Music Foundation is totally unique, for no other media industry has established an educational program with the breadth and professionalism which characterizes the activities of the Country Music Foundation. The Foundation—through its museum, library and publications programs—provides many education services normally associated with a university structure. This structure, however, exists within the music industry, provides access to that industry and responds to its interests and needs. In an era in which traditional educational institutions are hard-pressed to serve the needs of our society, the country music industry has provided its own unique approach to commercial-music education.

Bill Ivey

"Our greatest strength," says executive director Bill Ivey, "is a combination of board dedication and staff talent. With Peggy Sherrill and Terry Allen in my office; Danny Hatcher, Corrine Drennan, Doug Green and Bob Pinson in the Library; and Diane Johnson, Rachel Fitzgerald and Emmasue Stubblefield on the Museum staff, we have the ability to execute the programs set up by the Foundation board. It is this collection of talent which has made the Foundation so successful."

Finding the right person to take over the reins of the Country Music Foundation was a difficult and delicate task. The position demanded a person of suitable academic background, who must also be familiar with the most down-to-earth aspects of the music. It demanded a person flexible and sensitive enough to formulate goals which would bring credit not only from scholars, but from businessmen and fans alike, without getting locked into pedantry or academia for its own sake.

The board of the Country Music Foundation was very shrewd and very lucky when it named Bill Ivey to head the Foundation in October, 1971, for he fills these qualifications eminently.

Energetic, knowledgeable, immensely likeable, Ivey has been almost universally acclaimed as the right man for the job, and has, in just three years, brought the Foundation from its beginnings as an eager dream to its current status as a well-respected institution, possessing a fine and continually growing archive, and containing a number of innovative and important programs.

Folk Music Interest

His interest in folk music led him to the prestigious Indiana University Folklore Institute, where he received his M.A. in Folklore and Ethnomusicology in 1970. He is currently working on his doctoral dissertation for the same institution.

Since moving to Nashville in 1971, Ivey has produced recordings by several performers, and has published reviews and articles in numerous publications. He won an award for Country Liner Notes of the Year for his notes to Columbia's "The Bob Wills Anthology," received a 1973 Grammy nomination for his liner notes to RCA's "This is Jimmie Rodgers," and wrote the introduction to the recently-published Chet Atkins autobiography, "Country Gentleman."



Gene Autry, (ca. 1940)

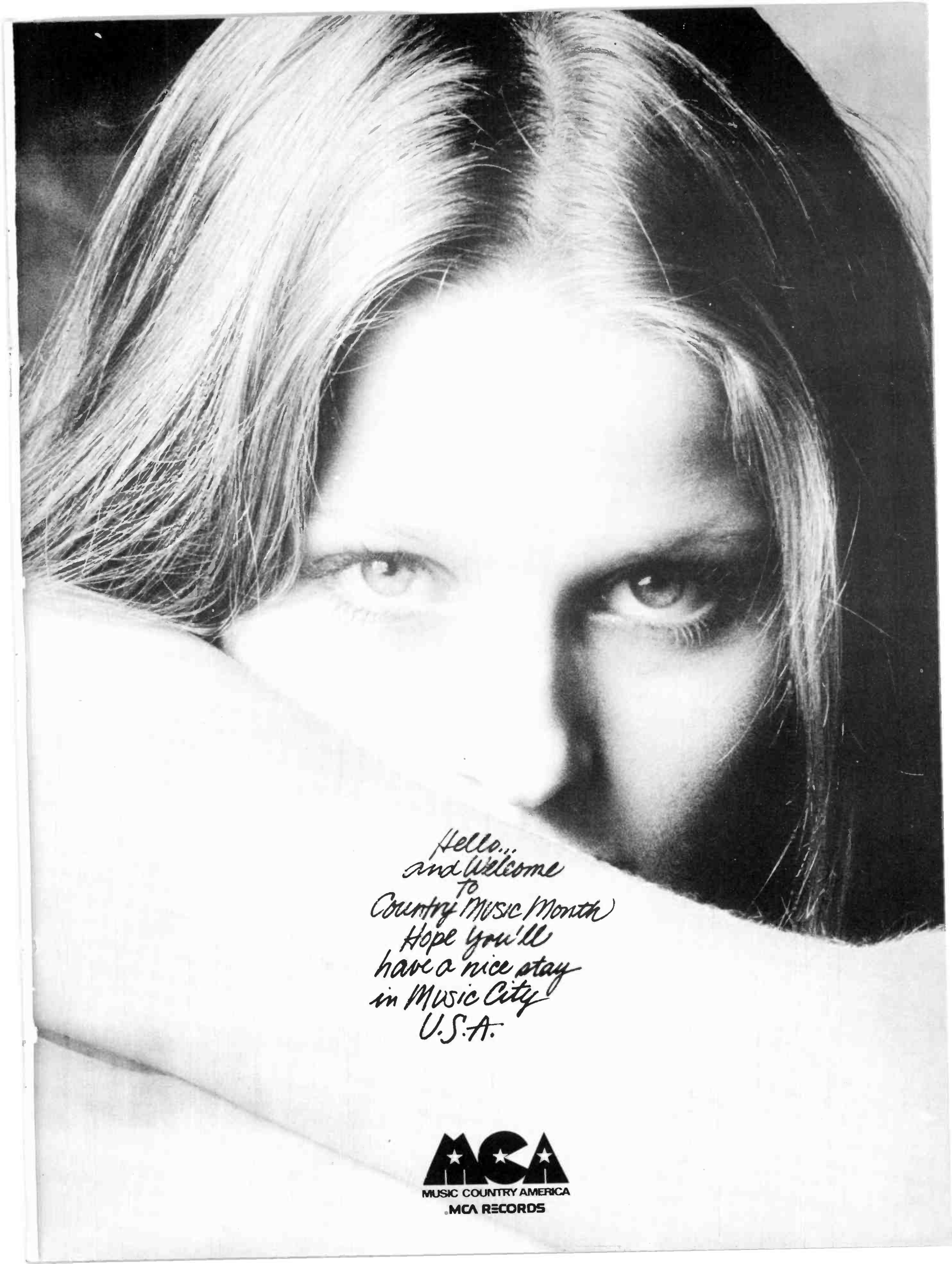
Numerous projects and developments within the academically-oriented Foundation have come about through his guidance, which have quickly gained prestige for the Foundation: the re-vamping of the *Journal of Country Music*, the Country Music Foundation Press, the hiring of world-famous collector Bob Pinson to direct the rapidly expanding archive holdings, the oral history project and the course offerings on country music which he both developed and taught.

(Continued on page 42)

Instrumentalist Of The Decade

*Sincerely,
Phil Ochs*

RCA Records and Tapes



*Hello...
and Welcome
to
Country Music Month
Hope you'll
have a nice stay
in Music City
U.S.A.*

MCA
MUSIC COUNTRY AMERICA
MCA RECORDS

GRC Country Comes on Strong

■ ATLANTA — It has been but two years since GRC first made its mark in the field of country music via the talents of Lonzo & Oscar and Red, White & Bluegrass, two acts who figured prominently on both country single and album charts. Since then, the label has continued and elaborated upon those earlier successes with a hit single and album by San Antonio's Moe Bandy, both titled "I Just Started Hatin' Cheatin' Songs Today."

The first chart number in country circles for GRC was brought home by Lonzo & Oscar. Their single, "Traces of Life," brought acclaim to the former comedy team not only in establishing them as a serious country act but opening the door for GRC's future involvement in country music.

Originally on Footprint Records, Bandy's master was purchased by GRC on the advice of the label's Wally Cochran, a 26-year veteran of the industry and head of the firm's Nashville office. The single, released in February, climbed into the top 10 nationally — GRC's first such major chart standing.

Paralleling Bandy's success on the country charts is GRC's Red, White & Bluegrass, the label's maiden chart-breaking act. The group, currently drawing top billing in their college performances as well as major cities throughout the country, is presently represented on the **Record World** country charts with their second album entitled "Pickin' Up." The Alabama group's first album, "Red, White & Bluegrass," en-

joyed a chart run of 13 weeks — another first for GRC.

Included in Red, White & Bluegrass' current lp which features guest fiddlers Byron Berline and Vassar Clements are several songs featured in the soon-to-be released film "Poor Pretty Eddie" starring Shelley Winters, Leslie Uggams and Slim Pickens. Introduced in his first acting role in the movie was Red, White & Bluegrass lead guitarist, Grant Boatwright.

Following this taste of country music success, GRC expanded its country roster with the addition of artists Marlys Roe, Ginger Boatwright and Rick Cunha.

Cunha was most recently represented on the country charts with his crossover hits "(I'm a) Yo Yo Man" and "Jesse James (Was An Outlaw, Honey)."

Of the new artists, lead vocalist of Red, White & Bluegrass, Ms. Ginger Boatwright, had her debut single, "The Lovin' Over," released. Ms. Boatwright's solo career recently saw the release of her latest single "Juke Box Band."

Other new releases slated for this Fall include Nashville songstress Marlys Roe with the tune "I Can't Stand To Hear You Say Goodbye" and a new Lonzo & Oscar disc, "He Came Back."

Under the direction of GRC president Michael Thevis, GRDC president Buz Wilburn and Nashville's Wally Cochran, the label announced the signing of Memphis singer Red Williams. Williams recently completed recording his first GRC release "Why'd The Last Time Have To Be The Best."

Jim Halsey Agency: Talent Plus Taste

■ TULSA, OKLAHOMA—The Jim Halsey Agency in Tulsa, Oklahoma, continued to be a major booker of country music talent in 1974 as well as expanding both his roster and his business interests.

With artists Roy C. Clark, Hank Thompson, Diana Trask and Tommy Overstreet continuing to make tremendous in-roads with their personal appearances, Halsey had a firm base on which to expand. In his expansion, he added artists Freddy Weller, Bob Luman, Johnny Duncan, Mel Tillis, Donna Fargo, Susan Haney, Leroy Van Dyke and Mac Wiseman.

Halsey also entered into an agreement with Regency Artists for exclusive representation for fairs and rodeos for Glen Campbell, John Davidson, Bob Hope, Sergio Mendes, Johnny Mathis, Henry Mancini and Mark Wilson, among other Regency artists.

Already owning radio station KTOW in Tulsa, Halsey also acquired KTBA, an FM stereo outlet.

In addition to having a solid roster of artists, Halsey also has a solid roster of executives with Dick Howard, a vice-president, heading the Los Angeles office and other key personnel including

John Hitt, Bob Taylor and Leo Zablin.

Nashville Office

Halsey has also opened a branch office in Nashville headed by Noel Fox, as well as establishing publishing companies in Nashville headed by Red Steagall, who is also booked by Halsey. The publishing companies include two owned by Hank Thompson, Brazos Valley and Texoma in addition to Roy Clark Music and the Amos Production Catalogue owned by Jimmy Bowen and Red Steagall.

Said Halsey, "I respect talented people and I am dedicated to creative people." With that type of respect and dedication, the Halsey Company is certain to continue to flourish.

20th Century

(Continued from page 38)

Although a formal show would be a bit premature, 20th will celebrate their entry into country via a mass exodus from California to Tennessee by the aforementioned executives, led by president Russ Regan. All plan on attending the CMA convention to greet old friends and make some new ones. A hospitality suite is planned at the Downtown Sheraton, manned by a superlative mixologist and further highlighted by an old-fashioned hot dog & beer wagon.

Six Performers

20th's diminutive country artist roster is comprised of six diverse performers—five out of Nashville and one from Los Angeles. Nancy Wayne, who hails from Southern California, is represented via "Gone" from her initial album, "Cheating Was the Last Thing On My Mind." Nancy, with producer Eddie Martinez, will utilize the talents of some of Nashville's finest musicians during her next recording session, scheduled in Music City simultaneously with the CMA Convention.

Vienneau Acts

Vienneau's performers are already beginning to bud and about to blossom. Such is the case of Lois Johnson and her "Come on in and Let Me Love You" single. Another is colorful Billy Thundercloud and the Chief-tones, a popular personal appearance attraction. Billy's first release for 20th is an lp titled "Off the Reservation," with "Come to Me" selected as the single. Ronnie Mack is another potential country star as evidenced by his rendition of "Rednecks Need Loving Too," a fine debut. Product is also on the way from Margo Smith, and Bill Rice is at the post with "Don't Take My Sunshine Away."

Cedarwood Is Home For Song Success

■ NASHVILLE—The magnitude of the catalogue of Cedarwood Publishing Company has long been an awesome force in country music, but 1974 saw a decided expansion, primarily in the general activity of Cedarwood's writers. Marti Brown (Atlantic) and Dianna Williams (Warner Brothers) made significant progress as recording artists as well as writers, continuing the tradition on the Cedarwood roster that Carl Perkins, for example, has fostered so brilliantly. Ms. Williams also scored nicely as writer of the Bill Blaylock-Clay Willis record, "Tennessee, You'll Never See the Back of Me Again".

Bringing up the same tradition is Michael Clark, who is currently preparing for a major release in addition to writing extensively and operating the Cedarwood studio, replacing longtime engineer Jim Hamer, who now represents the company in a song-plugging capacity.

Also enjoying a busy year has been writer Naomi Martin, one of the roster's more recent additions and a consistent contributor to the catalogue. Along with the recently-written material, Cedarwood standards continue to find themselves in the studio, such as the Sammi Smith recording of "Long Black Veil" and Dutch star Jack Jersey's "Honky-tonk Man."



Pictured, top row, from left: GRC recording artists Moe Bandy and Sammy Johns. Bottom: Red, White & Bluegrass.

William E. McEuen presents

Stars & Stripes Forever

A documentary of American Music

by the

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band



UA-LA184-J2

Featuring Their Hit Single **BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS**

UA-XW544-X

On Thursday, October 17 The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
Will Show Their True Colors at The CMA Convention In Nashville.
On United Artists Records & Tapes



Produced by William E. McEuen for the Aspen Recording Society, Colorado

Four Star's Success Is an Industry Constant

■ NASHVILLE — The year 1974 will go down in 4 Star Music's books as one of the greatest in their 20 years of existence. The month of February brought the ground breaking ceremonies of 4 Star Music and 60,000 sq. ft. parking facilities, with completion of both facilities expected as early as February, 1975, a \$3 million project.

4 Star Music Co., opened its office in Nashville some 15 years ago with well-known Bob Jennings (at the time a deejay on WLAC) operating out of his home. 4 Star Music was established several years before this, based in Los Angeles with its principal owner Gene Autry. Joe Johnson was associated for many years with Gene Autry and eventually bought all the stock in the entire company and became the sole owner of 4 Star Music and its subsidiary companies.

New Building

It is anticipated upon completion of their new building, that 4 Star, whose main office headquarters is in Los Angeles, will shift its headquarters to Nashville, while still maintaining an office in Los Angeles.

Included in the new building will be two full service recording studios, a mixing room and a mastering room, all furnished with the very latest and most modern equipment available. The building will be six stories with a penthouse occupying the sixth floor. This will be the executive office floor for 4 Star Music personnel.

In addition to their new building there has been much activity in all branches of the 4 Star complex. 4 Star's production agreement with MCA Records involves a total of nine artists: Jerry Wallace, George Morgan, Marie Owens, Betty Jean Robinson, Carl Belew and Bonnie Guitar; all have records on the current market. Under this production agreement 4 Star also produces three pop artists for MCA; Paula Johnson (daughter of Bonnie Guitar), Neal Davenport and Sun Child. All are produced by the president of 4 Star, Joe Johnson.

Sun Child

Sun Child is produced under the banner of Little Elmo Productions, a separate and unique project. A minimum of 10 percent of writers' and publishers' royalties from every song in their project was donated by Sun Child, who appeared on the Jerry Lewis National Muscular Dystrophy Telethon in Las Vegas. Ten percent of the writer and publisher royalties on all 10 songs is going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America. Any artist who records songs in this project has the right to designate what char-

ity he or she wants the 10 percent royalties to go to. The first country artist to be involved in this project was George Morgan, who recorded "A Candy Mountain Melody."

On the personnel side of 4 Star Music, there have been some important additions to the staff. Linda Milani joined the staff in February as secretary and Jack Crow joined the staff in late May as assistant to Bob Jennings (VP of 4 Star Music Publishing). Gene Kennedy also joined the staff this year as executive assistant to the president and executive vice president of 4 Star. He will handle the record arm of 4 Star Productions, working very closely with the MCA organization.

Peter Sale, in the 4 Star Los Angeles office, has been with the company for 11 years as comptroller and manager of that office, and was elevated to vice president and general manager of 4 Star Music and its subsidiaries. Peter's staff in Los Angeles consists of Rose Todd as secretary to Joe Johnson, Grace Burns, who handles all song copyrights and publishing, and Elary Hearn, who works as audio engineer and coordinates material to producers and artists. These four people have served 4 Star Music for a total of almost 60 years collectively.

Show Biz, Inc.

(Continued from page 56)

nally purchased by Glenbrook Laboratories (Bayer Aspirin, Fletcher's Castoria, Neo-Synephine, Campho-Phenique) for limited regional use. During the first production session in late July, the client stated that he wanted to expand his buy to full national use. The wheels were set in motion and shortly after the Glenbrook Lab people got back to New York, Show Biz had an order from them for total U.S. rights to "Pop! Goes the Country." This series presents the top artists of country music singing the songs that are making it equally big in pop as they are in country. Among the guests on the series are Ray Stevens, Brenda Lee, Merle Haggard, Sonny James, Marty Robbins, Dolly Parton, Donna Fargo, Tom T. Hall, Lynn Anderson, George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed.

The Bobby Goldsboro Show is entering its third season, with 130 markets (72.52 percent of U.S. TV homes) signed for the series. This includes renewal in virtually every market that has carried the show in the past, plus several new big market entries.

The picture is equally bright on several other shows—The Porter

Monument (Continued from page 18)

One of last year's biggest records was Kris Kristofferson's "Why Me," which was on the national charts for eight consecutive months and sold over a million and a quarter copies. Within the past year, Kristofferson achieved gold albums with "The Silver Tongued Devil and I" and "Jesus Was a Capricorn," which included the "Why Me" single.

Monument Records president Fred Foster recently produced a new album by Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge. Both the lp and a single by Kris & Rita are scheduled for release shortly.

Charlie McCoy, the harmonica virtuoso who's among the best known Nashville sideman, continues his unbroken string of hit singles and albums. Each of his last three Monument lps has sold over 100,000 copies, a rare accomplishment for an instrumental artist. His current album is "Nashville Hit Man" and his recent hit singles include "Boogie Woogie" and "I Can't Help It If I'm Still In Love With You."

Singer/composer Larry Gatlin is breaking through bigger than ever with his second album, "Rain-Rainbow," which was backed by a major promotional campaign. A 17-city promo tour by Gatlin was launched with a party at the Exit/In in Nashville on August 19.

Among the support material for Gatlin's promo tour was an introductory film narrated by Fred Foster, Kris Kristofferson and Johnny Cash. Press kits, T-shirts, laminated buttons and incentive programs were also utilized. Gatlin, who's enjoyed chart success with "Sweet Becky Walker" and "Bitter They Are, Harder They

Fall" within the past year, is currently moving up with "Delta Dirt."

Billy Swan, who produced Tony Joe White for Monument and was an original member of Kristofferson's band, has now emerged as a solo recording artist with "I Can Help." It's one of Monument's fastest-selling records and it's breaking pop as well as country. Billy Swan's debut album is scheduled for release in November.

Lloyd Green, whose current single is "Canadian Sunset," has been keeping busy. The steel guitarist recorded with Paul & Linda McCartney while the rock stars were in Nashville, and it's been reported that they want him to tour with them. Green recently went before the cameras in the Robert Altman film "Nashville," playing a true-to-life role as a studio musician.

Boots Randolph, always a favorite with country music audiences, has been doing especially well with his "Country Boots" album. Both "Old Joe Clark" and the current "Wabash Cannonball" single from the lp have met with success.

Behind the scenes, Monument is undergoing some restructuring. Rick Blackburn, a 10-year music business veteran who most recently was director of sales for Epic Records, was appointed by Fred Foster to the newly-created position of executive vice president and general manager. Blackburn began in September, handling the day-to-day operations of the label and working closely with CBS in all areas of marketing, merchandising, sales and promotion.



Monument's Kris Kristofferson, Larry Gatlin, Charlie McCoy.

Wagoner Show, The Wilburn Brothers Show, County Carnival, Country Place and Gospel Singing Jubilee. A new market has developed for these productions as daily country music "strips" one show a day, five days a week. More and more markets are calling on Show Biz every day for

this continuity use.

With "Pop! Goes the Country," the expansion of the Bobby Goldsboro Show and the continued enthusiasm for the more traditional country music half-hours, the 1974-75 season promises to be the biggest and best yet for Show Biz, Inc.



*Country Folks Just
Naturally Have
More Fun,
Ronnie Milsap*



Management & Booking:

Jack D. Johnson Talent, Inc.

Box 40484 Nashville, Tenn. 37204

Phone (615) 383-6564

RCA

Records and Tapes

Griff Is a Winner

■ NASHVILLE — Winning four awards for writing, four for publishing, two as an artist and two as a producer denotes a banner year for a super individual—and that's exactly what Ray Griff is. As the head of Blue Echo, Blue Mist, Blue Melody and Blue Band, Griff writes songs for many other artists as well as writing, producing and recording himself; and he tops all this off by being the publisher of one of the most successful independent publishing companies on Music Row.

The awards mentioned are ASCAP awards, and this number matches the previous number he has won since 1971; prior to that he was affiliated with BMI, where he won five writer awards and five publisher awards.

Griff has also signed to host a syndicated television show in Canada entitled "Good Time Country." As a producer, he is producing Sharon Lowness in addition to himself. Griff records for Dot Records.

50 States Covers Country

■ NASHVILLE—50 States Records has signed a distribution agreement exclusively with Nationwide Sound Distributors of Nashville. Nationwide president Joe Gibson reports that the response on the first few releases under the new agreement has been overwhelming.

The first release handled under Nationwide, "Watch Out For Lucy" by Bobby Penn, has been successful in almost every major market, and singles by Wendel Adkins, Les Martins, Lynne Burnes and Jimmy McGuire have made great strides in being introduced to the radio markets. Under the new agreement, Betty Gibson will exclusively handle all station promotion for 50 States.

50 States, now in its fourth year, started back in 1971 with "You Were On My Mind" by Bobby Penn and then followed with successful records on "Sunshine Lady," "High Heel Sneakers" and "Lay Your Sweet Lovin' On Me," all done by Penn.

The a&r department of 50 States is handled by Charlie Fields and Johnny Howard on an independent basis; both Fields and Howard have worked together on successful singles for the past six years.

Nationwide offices are located at 207 12th Avenue South, Nashville, and 50 States is currently housing offices at 812 16th Avenue S. in Music City.

50 States has also announced that an album is forthcoming on Bobby Penn due to the success of his single "Watch Out For Lucy." 50 States' president Donald Riis says he fights the same problems that all the independents do, but adds, "We're an independent, we're growing and we're very happy with our recent signing with Nationwide."

Combine Music Is Home For the Writer/Artist

■ NASHVILLE — Combine Music began its year by moving into new offices at 911 16th Avenue S., giving them more offices and larger office space. September saw them advance their staff members to new positions—Bob Beckham was named president, Fred Foster was named chairman of the board, Johnny Wilson was promoted to vice president and Tim Wipperman was named assistant to the vice president.

Writers for Combine Music and its affiliated companies include Bob Morrison, Allan Rush, Randy Cullers, Dennis Linde, Bob Galbraith, Billy Swan, Kris Kristofferson, Michael Bacon, Donnie Fritz, Lee Clayton, Arthur Alexander, Terry Dearmore, Cindy Walker, Tony Joe White, Ray Wylie Hubbard and Larry Gatlin.

These writers have allowed Combine to have singles released on Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Larry Gatlin, Ronnie Milsap, Billy Swan, Connie Cato, Tom Rush, Carl Carlton, Jamie Kaye, Jim Nabors, Bonnie Koloc, Chuck Price, Dobie Gray and Jim Ed Brown.

Beckham has stated that he believes the writers should also be artists—and his stable of writers have also made their mark as recording artists. Kris Kristofferson, Larry Gatlin, Billy Swan and Michael Bacon all record for Monument; Bob Galbraith records with RCA, as do Allen Rush and Randy Cullers as a group called Helix. Donnie Fritz records for Atlantic, Dennis Linde for Elektra and Terry Dearmore as lead singer for Barefoot Jerry, who record for Monument.

Combine continues its expansion as they are currently building a 16 track studio in the basement of their 16th Avenue offices.

A Banner Year For Bobby Bare

■ NASHVILLE — Less than a year ago he was wondering aloud why his buddies among the top ranks of country music performers would fling open the doors to so much trouble by hiring a band. He'd shake his head in sympathy as he watched fellow artists on the road spend hours planning their bus routings, worrying about hotel reservations and getting involved in all the other related problems that pull minds away from singing and songwriting.

Forms Band

Within six months, this same artist has forsaken his policy of "showin' up, borrowin' somebody's guitar and startin' to pick." By the first of August, 1974, Bobby Bare had formed a band.

In his own words, "This past year has probably been the biggest I've ever had since I've been in the entertainment business. And that's sayin' a lot, considerin' the fact that 12, 15 years ago I was into a string of pop-country hits like 'Detroit City' and '500 Miles' that were selling millions of records. I've decided to kinda get back in the business. Now that I'm producing my own records, I've been able to test some ideas, and those ideas have proven correct."

Tenacity

Bare's year can almost be evaluated by noting how few records he released in that period: two singles and one album! But it's the sales figures and chart positions (and tenacity) that tell the story. All three items were number one records nationally and sold in incredible volume.

The main project was a two-record album called "Lullabies, Legends and Lies." It consisted of songs written or co-written by Shel Silverstein.

New Album

As soon as the records were ready for shipping, Bare turned his attention to the next recording project, which also involved Shel Silverstein. The album, "Bobby Bare and the Family Singin' in the Kitchen," was recently released.

Personal Manager

At about this time, however, another individual re-entered Bobby Bare's career: Charlie Williams, Bare's personal manager 10 years ago. Williams was moving from California to Nashville, and Bare persuaded Williams to again function as manager. By May, Williams had agreed to do so, working in conjunction with his other responsibilities as director of the Nashville office of the music business conglomerate ATV Music Group.

The King of Country & Western Artist & Record Productions..

JUST A FEW OF THE SONGS Promoted by LITTLE RICHIE JOHNSON

<p>Honey Valley PA It's Been In The Morning Tennessee Bird Walk Chicago Story Gone Steady My Place In The Sun You've Got Four Troubles Humphrey: The Camel! Husbands & Wives Oh Stepper Step Aside I'm In A Pinch Tell Her You Love Her Leavin' & Saying Goodbye San Antonio That Sex Me Later Look Holdings Here Comes Heaven I Am The Grass Turn The World Around Lunan & Windblown Wonderful World Of Women The Whoo! Of My Wagon Hobo's Pride Before The Heat Turned Fall I Just Wanted To Know Kittchen: Are Back In Style She Want A Little Bit Further Togetherness Ward: I'm Gonna Have To Let Anna Tiger Taming When The Ship Hits The Sand Dear And Good I Wish Down In The Bandstand Blossoms Anne Of A Thousand Days Whirlpool She's My Fairy Ales Wild Tail The Man I've Got Six Pains Away Bright Lights & Country Music I Think I'll Stay In My House White Lightning Express Big Job What We're Fighting For Lambly Again Fugitive Tom Of The Ural With One Exception The Workman Thump Out Landlows Top Much To Dream The Party's Over Wickett's Shadow The Little Girl Of Mine The Letter End Of The World Amestown Ferry</p>	<p>Publin' Up The Mail When I'm In Love The Company You Keep Misty Heartache A Little Understanding Lower Mikey Willie Wee Wee Diner: At The Pawn Shop Lay Some Happiness On Me The One You Slip Around With Ma Ma Joans I'll Be All The Same To You Black Jack County Chain War Baby I'm Getting Better Lover! You'll Killin' Me Don't Surrender My Shermen My Dream Woman Do Funny Things To Me Our Ship Of Love Artificial Love If This House Could Talk Let Her See Call The Love On Me Yes, Mr. Paton Feed Me & Heavens Old Records Fun & Pages My Friend On The Right Why Didn't Your Dog Bite Nobody But Me Keepin' Up With The Joneses Down By The River Ship Of A Fool Ship & Little Song Of Heartache Second Hand Love Yellow Sandstone Tiger Woman Country Guitars Larkin: Back To Sea Nothing Left To Lose Dear Martin Howard H Make You Happy The World Is Round Sweet Love & Happiness Fun My Love: No Proof Whispering Rose Lovesville Walkway Unopened Gull Send Love If The Whole World Sighed Love Lonely: The Only Habit Real Heartache Stood Up Hard Seat Job Only You Can Make Me Cry Lovers Kangaroo Of Love Arkness Strapped Climb Eaten And Thrown Bangin' Nails Blue Eyes Love</p>	<p>Circle Me Introduction To Your Party Color Him Father The Bill Sluggo The Girl About Liberty Red Fox Love Remember Me Everybody's Got Troubles Walk Of Fakes Wedding Band Happy Up Big Blackbird I've Got Precious Memories Kissin' Off Darkness Just Blow In Me: Let The Wedding Cake Come Like The Wind Lover! You The Way I Do Impossible Lonely Figure You Gave Me A Mountain Like A Bird Lonely Street Love Ain't Gonna Die Ann There Never Was A Time Up With The Inbetween That's What I See The Blue Bill Man Guilty Street The Wagon: Grow Tall Pretty One Fox Ebbons Fox Ebbons Long Black Veil Already It's Heaven Wear On The Working Line I Just Came To Get My Baby From Heaven To Hell Happy Street Texas Rag Heaven Says Hello The Lovers Night Life Bushman Steel Dr. What You Can She'll Remember Ain't You Be-uh-uh Daddy: Was A Preacher Belle myma Dr. L. Colley Another Class Of Beer Depend On Me I'll Break Out Again Tonight Blythen Of The Barn Valentine Of The Hobb I Almost Called Her Name Which Way You Goin' Billy and many many others.</p>
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Little Richie Johnson
 Advertising Agency
 "HOME OF COUNTRY & WESTERN PRODUCTIONS"
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 PHONE 864-7185
 AREA CODE 505

House of Cash: Action Breeds Interest

■ NASHVILLE — A strong stable of writers and one of the best studios found anywhere make House of Cash a place of action and "happenings."

Writers with BMI affiliations include Loney Hutchins, Bertie Lou Delamont, Tommy Dougherty, Johnny Cash, June Carter and Harry Lee. Writers with ASCAP affiliation include Jerry Hensley, Reba Hancock, Don Lee, Glen D. Tubb and Jack Routh.

The House of Cash publishing companies have had songs recorded by Dick Feller, the Le-Fevers, Brian Shaw, Happy Goodman Family, Jerry Hensley, the Young Apostles, Compton Brothers, Kingsmen Quartet, Jake Hess, Speer Family, Pat Boone, Tanya Tucker, Jimmie Davis, Jack Routh and Johnny Cash.

Artists who recorded at the House of Cash Studio during the past year include the Carter Family, Hank Garland, Marijohn Wilkins, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge. In addition, the Leon Russell television show was filmed at the studio and included as guests Willie Nelson, Jeanne Pruett, Roy Acuff, Earl Scruggs Revue, Ernest Tubb and Bill Monroe.

Hall-Clement Ent. Hauls in Hits

■ NASHVILLE — Any publishing company that would have Jerry Foster and Bill Rice writing for them is bound to have a banner year—and Bill Hall's companies certainly had a tremendous year in 1974.

Big Songs

Big songs this year included "Song and Dance Man," "I'll Think of Something," "Born to Love and Satisfy," "Rosie Cries a Lot," "Loving You Has Changed My Life," "When Your Good Love Was Mine," "Hey There Girl" and "I Want to Stay," all written by Foster and Rice for Jack and Bill Music (ASCAP).

Currently, the duo has songs on the market by Bobby Bare Jr. and Mamma, Billy Thundercloud, Eddy Raven, Ferlin Husky, Bill Rice and Jerry Foster.

Pubberies

Other publishing companies include Birdwalk Music, featuring songs by Jack Blanchard and Misty Morgan; American Cowboy Music featuring songs by the Statler Brothers; Copperband Music which published songs written by Johnny Paycheck; the Big Bopper Catalogue, featuring the song "Running Bear," and a newly acquired company, "Folio Publishing," which publishes the works of Warner Mack including the single "Talkin' to the Wall."

WHN: Country in N.Y.

■ NEW YORK—February 26, 1974 —was one of the most important dates in the surging strides of country music. It was the date that Storer Broadcasting's 50,000 watt New York "flagship"—WHN —switched to a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week country music format.

Research

The switch climaxed months of intensive market research and countless conferences with leaders of the country music industry, from the vital Country Music Association, whose assistance and cooperation were powerhouses of strength through WHN's "formative" months; the recording industry; record retailers; country nightclub operators; country music associations; musicians; and the thousands of old and new fans who rejoiced that "their" music had not only returned to New York, but could be heard far and wide, loud and clear through the powerful WHN signal, blanketing the tri-state New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area, with "bonus" coverage deep into New York State and up through New England.

Growth

WHN's growth has been highly gratifying both to management and the country industry. Its total



WHN vice president-general manager Jack Kelly with Olivia Newton-John at WHN's studios.

audience has more than doubled since its switch—based upon Jan.-Feb. 1973 figures vs. the latest available (May-June '74 Pulse) figures. From approximately 50,000 adults throughout the basic (6 a.m.-7 p.m.) broadcast day (Mon-Fri) to over 100,000! From some 400,000 different persons listening to WHN throughout the broadcast week, in Jan.-Feb., '73 the station presently has over 1,500,000 listeners throughout its total listening area.

Talent Roster

WHN's talent roster evolved with its growth. Today, WHN fields what it proudly claims as "New York's finest talent roster," with longtime top deejay Big Wilson heading the broadcast day, followed by a team of "heavies" — Lee Arnold, "dean" of the country deejays; Jack Spector; Larry Kenney, newly-imported from Chicago's WJJD; Ray Otis; and Del De Montreux. WHN has adjusted its commercial load to enable it to play even more music throughout the months ahead.

Owens Opens New Div.

■ NASHVILLE—Earl E. Owens, owner of Owens-Fair & Associates Public Relations, has announced a new division of his Nashville firm, Hustlers, Inc., a specialized service to the entertainment industry for the establishment of contracts and acquisition of specific services and products. To enable his personal supervision of this wing, Owens has moved his office from the Nova Agency to the Owens-Fair complex at 1717 West End, although he will continue to serve Nova as promotion and public relations director.

Bill Littleton

With the return of Owens to the day-to-day operation of Owens-Fair, Bill Littleton remains media director and further expansions will be announced in the near future.

Young and Deaton Are Movin' Ahead

■ NASHVILLE—It has been a fine year for Faron Young and Billy Deaton as their organization has made great forward strides. Deaton negotiated contracts for Young to do commercials with Schlitz Malt Liquor, Velvet Pipe Tobacco and Commercial Securities.

Publishing

Deaton and Young have been actively engaged in the publishing business for several years with three companies—Court of Kings, (BMI), Faron Young Music (ASCAP) and Smokey Music (SESAC). This year Young and Deaton purchased four additional catalogues from the Jer-Mar Investment Company, all of which were at one time a part of the late Hubert Long's publishing holdings. Two additional partnerships have been formed—with Billy Walker for BMI affiliate Poke Salad Music, and with Bennie Birchfield for Birchfield Music.

Young was honored this year when he was invited to appear for the Southern Governors Conference in Austin, Texas, hosted by Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe.

New Offices

Young and Deaton will soon move into new offices as ground has been broken and construction underway for a three-story office building which adjoins the property owned and occupied by Young at 1314 Pine Street in Nashville.

HHV=PR

■ LOS ANGELES — Hecht Harman Vukas Creative Communications, Inc., better known throughout the industry simply as HHV, is making some major waves in the PR field. Formed only six months ago by the three principals, H.H. Hecht, Larry Harman and Gerald A. Vukas, the firm has signed for exclusive representation some of the top names in entertainment today.

Country Music Division

Their country music division, headed by Kathy Gangwisch, includes among other artists, Roy Clark, Diana Trask, Freddy Weller and Gunilla Hutton. This group of outstanding performers has established HHV as a leader in country music PR.

Out of their offices at 1032 Hilldale in Los Angeles, this triumvirate has pulled off some other major coups as well. Take for example their working through the State Department to re-route 15 top Soviet dignitaries into Las Vegas, a city heretofore "off limits." The visit was scheduled to coincide with Roy Clark and Gunilla Hutton's Frontier engagement.

Red O'Donnell's Year in Review

(Continued from page 82)

(RCA) was cut in the cafeteria at a junior high school his teen-age daughter **Donna** attends during a graduation banquet . . . **Hank Cochran** celebrated his birthday by drinking a fifth of sulphur water . . . **Tammy Wynette's** hushed tones were for a single of "Woman to Woman."

Diamond Dolly described her new bus for her new act: "It is three shades of pink. Well, it's not 'sissy' pink. I wouldn't do that to my all male band" . . . **Brokun Records' Paul Click** was looking for that click platterwise and tried with "Smokey, Trucks & C.B. Radios" . . . One of the genuine oldtimers of the country music field, **E. J. Carter**—husband of **Mother Maybelle** and father of the three Carter sisters (**Anita, Helen and June**)—was stricken with heart attack. He is still—at this writing—in serious condition . . . The **Bare Family**, daddy **Bobby**, mama **Jeannie** and sons **Bobby, Jr.** and **Shannon** and daughter **Cari**, cut an lp called "Family Singing in the Kitchen."

Charlie Rich's personal appearance at the Las Vegas Hilton was taped for a 90-minute TV special. Guests included **Olivia Newton-John** . . . **Jerry Clower** made no bones about it: He titled his latest MCA album "Country Ham" . . . And that he is, most successfully . . . **Don Cusic**, formerly the resident male at CMA, was named southeastern editor of **Record World** . . . **Frank Mull** left Mercury and became director of national sales and promotion of country product at Avco Records, Nashville division.

Meanwhile, **Mike Shepherd** left his post as director of marketing for Warner Brothers in Nashville to become an indie promoter of pop and country records . . . **Charley Pride's** latest was "Mississippi Cotton Picking Delta Town" . . . Was it inspired by Charley's birthplace? . . . It was rumored—Rona Barrett style—that **Buck Owens** and his Hee Haw co-regular, statuesque **Lisa Todd**, were a-courting steadily on the west coast . . . **Loretta Lynn** reported she was suffering from migraine headaches and was contemplating undergoing acupuncture treatment as a possible cure—or relief . . . A **Robert Altman** directed-produced movie, simply titled "Nashville," was being filmed in Nashville.

Hickory artist **Carl Smith**, after six months vacation, announced that he was resuming personal appearances . . . **Roy Orbison's** first for Mercury was "Sweet Mama Blue" . . . **Leroy Van Dyke** was the latest artist to sign with **Jim Halsey's** Agency . . . The Grand Ole Opry, without any before or after publicity, bought a grand (almost concert) piano for its Friday and Saturday night shows to replace an upright that had been around since Steinway and Baldwin were youngsters . . . The old order changeth? ? ?

Donna Fargo told us by song that "You Can't Be A Beacon" and the listeners bought it. Another no. 1 for the Fargo Express. (Sorry about that **Billy Petrolle**?) . . . **Johnny Rodriguez' "Dance With Me Just One More Time"** was in hit-style step . . . **Tanya Tucker's "The Man that Turned My Mama On"** had record buyers turned on, too . . . It was hit time again for genial **Sonny James**. His "A Mi Esposa Con Amor"—or "To My Wife With Love"—was a "can't miss" release.

After a brief absence from the charts, **Billy (Crash) Craddock** was in the no. 1 spot with "Rub It In" for ABC . . . **Bill Anderson** had a powerful single in "Can I Come Home to You," and **Olivia Newton-John's "I Honestly Love You"** MCA release was money-in-the bank . . . RCA appointed **Al Sellers** country music product manager . . . **Dobro** virtuoso **Josh Graves** signed recording deal with Epic.

James Brolin, co-star on "Marcus Welby" TVer, recorded his first single, "California On My Mind"—written by **Tony Joe White**—for Artco Records and Tapes of Oklahoma City . . . **Porter Wagoner's "going away" gifts to Dolly Parton** were a diamond studded guitar and a pair of eyeglasses with 20-carat gold-plated frames bedecked with 14-carat gold butterflies . . . **Jerry Bradley** was promoted to vice president at RCA's Nashville office . . . **Chuck Glaser** formed a talent agency . . . **Olivia Newton-John** visited Nashville and charmed everybody who met her with her non-prententious attitude.

SEPTEMBER

■ **Johnny Cash** was hospitalized briefly for exhaustion and his 4-year-old son **John Carter Cash** suffered head injuries when a jeep in which he was a passenger turned over . . . All are back in action now . . . **Kris Kristofferson** and wife **Rita Coolidge** spent a week at **Chip Young's** Young'un Studio at Murfreesboro, Tenn. cutting an lp for Monument (produced by **Fred Foster**) . . . **Jerry Reed** wanted it known that his "Lord, Mr. Ford" hit song has nothing to do with the Jerry in the White House or his administration.

The **Conway Twitty** softball event at Oklahoma City was a success. Proceeds went to the Muscular Dystrophy campaign . . . **Diana Trask**

and husband **Tom Ewen**, and **Roy Clark** and wife **Barbara** went sailing in the Trask boat from Fort Lauderdale to the Bahamas . . . The tribute to veteran record promoter-distributor **Sam Wallace** in Atlanta was well-deserved . . . **Dottie West** appeared in Norway—Norway, Mich. that is . . . **Waylon Jennings' "I'm a Ramblin Man"** was "one to watch"—also one to listen to and buy, judging by its national popularity . . . **Mickey Gilley's** latest was "I Overlooked An Orchid." First it was "Roses" and now "Orchids." Mickey must be a flower freak? ? ?

Capitol released a single titled "Tupelo Joe" by **Buford Rockefeller** . . . A no doubt singing cousin of the vice president designate? ? ? . . . Aw sure.

Some Music Rowers were talking about the sound-alike of **Ginger Boatwright's** and **Marty Mitchell's** version of "Juke Box Band" . . . Are they one and the same singer? ? ? . . . **Billie Jo Spears** was back in business with a release of "Funny Little Clown" on UA . . . "Son of a Rotten Gambler" had hit potential for **Anne Murray** . . . **Perry Como** announced that he was coming to Nashville in October to play in the Music City Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament—and to select material for an RCA recording session under direction of **Chet Atkins**.

Conny Van Dyke rated the "homecoming day" treatment in Nassawadox, Va. . . . **Ray Stevens** opened a three-weeker at the MGM Grand Hotel in Vegas . . . **Tompall Glaser** was tapped to write the film score and serve as executive producer of a movie called "Angel," to be shot in Nashville . . . **Ray Price**, after many years with Columbia, signed with Myrrh, a subsidiary of Word Records, Inc. . . . **George Jones** was at the top with "Grand Tour" . . . **Sunday Sharpe** answered **Paul Anka's** biggie with "I'm Having Your Baby" . . . **Carl Smith's** first for Hickory—"Dreaming Again"—was written by **Redd Stewart** who had a cleffing part in the composition of "Tennessee Waltz" and "Bonaparte's Retreat" . . . **Barbara Fairchild's** baby arrived.

Capitol moved its country music headquarters to Nashville, where **Frank Jones** is to be the big boss . . . The CMA Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum announced a 100 percent expansion for 1975 . . . **Del Wood's** weight watchers regimen was working. The Opry pianist had lost 51 pounds since April and planned to diet off 100 by January . . . She now greets friends and neighbors: "I'm glad you are seeing less of me these days" . . . Del's extra-poundage has gone "Down Yonder"?? ? . . . **Little David Wilkins** shuffled back onto the recording scene with a single of "Not Tonight." **Marie Ratliff** tabbed it "Hot in the South." Why, Marie! . . . **RW** tossed a pick of the week to **Jan Howard's "Seein' Is Believin' "** on the GRT label.

The sad news is that veteran pianist-singer-composer-country soul **Ivory Joe Hunter** is critically ill with cancer in a Memphis hospital.

So on an unhappy note we conclude another year.

See you around the 49th Grand Ole Opry Celebration and Country Music Deejay Convention. I'll be the short, fat guy in the Irish green beard. ☺

Granite (Continued from page 38)

well known to professionals and fans alike, as a performer (Home-town Jamboree), producer (Merle Travis, Tennessee Ernie Ford, and the Granite roster), and publisher—he was the founder of Central Songs, which is now part of Capitol Records' Beechwood Music.

Stone points out that Granite's original concept of re-establishing Los Angeles as a country music center is well on its way to being realized. In addition to ten singles by various Granite artists, the company has released two well-received albums by country stars who live in the Los Angeles area, Molly Bee and Tex Williams. The Granite product released to date has been produced by Stone in Los Angeles, utilizing the talents of an arranger-conductor he has worked with closely for many years, Billy Liebert.



Cliffe Stone

Stone attributes Granite's initial success to the fact that his staff (including Frank Leffel, head of promotion, and Eloise Peacock, administrative assistant) is dedicated to giving full attention to each artist and each release.

Hudson & Associates Continues Expansion

■ NASHVILLE—Bill Hudson & Associates, Nashville-based advertising and public relations firm, continued in 1974 to expand its client services and special projects for the entertainment industry.

11 Years

The firm, with a successful track record of advertising and public relations services to the music industry, celebrated its eleventh year in business by expanding its public relations division. Betty Hofer, formerly president of the Open Door Agency, and Robbie McCullough of that agency joined the Hudson firm bringing the total staff to fifteen employees. Miss Hofer will continue to handle clients Danny Davis & the Nashville Brass, Dot Records, Ray Griff, the Oak Ridge Boys and the Samuelsons.

Film Activity

In the past year the firm handled public relations for the Twentieth Century Fox film "W.W. And The Dixie Dance Kings" which was filmed in Nashville and starred Burt Reynolds and Conny Van Dyke. In addition, the firm was retained to handle the national telecast from Nashville of the annual Grammy Awards for NARAS.

Sound City

(Continued from page 68)

southern fried chicken, walk the famed Walk Way of the Stars at the Country Music Hall of Fame, tour recording studios and are lodged in one of Nashville's leading hotels while they are here.

Catering not only to coach tours, the young company has literally put Nashville and the music industry together for many companies and large industry corporations as "incentive tours" for their personnel. The "incentive tours" are basically air tours, and this particular endeavor has focused attention on the newly created tour company throughout the country as they strive to secure new business and tourism for Nashville and middle Tennessee.

Hot Line

(Continued from page 68)

Some interest on David Will's "There's a Song on the Jukebox" at WWOK, WKDA, WMC and WENO.

Hagers' "Love My Life Away" showing early life with picks at WGMA and WRCP. Their latest lp well-received at WENO.

A split lining up on Elvis Presley's latest: "It's Midnight" is picked at KCKC and strong at WMC; "Promised Land" is the choice at WINN, WUBE and WWOK. WCMS is playing both sides.

Pointer Sisters 'Going Country'

■ NASHVILLE—ABC/Blue Thumb artists the Pointer Sisters, after their record-breaking tour of Europe, are about to go "country" here for a week. They arrive as guests of ABC/Dot Records on Oct. 17 to perform their current smash country and pop hit "Fairytale" the following day at the ABC/Dot luncheon show.

Opry Appearance

During the following week the sisters will be recording five or six country tracks with producer David Rubinson at a Nashville studio. And on Friday, Oct. 25, they will top off their stay with a guest appearance at the Grand Ole Opry.

Windchime Productions Has Winning Sounds

■ NASHVILLE—A great deal of the sound of 1974 has had the ring of Windchime, quite literally, as the Johnny Slate-Larry Henley-owned production company has been responsible for releases by Bobby Thompson (Capricorn), Jeffrey Comonor (Epic), Tom McKeon (Capricorn), Larry Henley (Capricorn), Bobby Harden (United Artists), the Nashville Speakeasy Band (GRC) and Molly Ridgeway (United Artists), as well as the rapidly-taking-off album introducing Fallenrock on Capricorn.

The natural result of a long creative association between Slate and Henley, Windchime Productions, Inc. has quickly become a multi-faceted operation via its publishing affiliates, Windchime Music, Inc. and Sandstorm Music, and the total team effort of Larry Keith, graphic designer Ken Aronson, and secretary Kathi Murdock.

Momentum, beginning with Comonor's success earlier this year, was boosted with McKeon's "The Devil Came To Birmingham;" an even heavier push is expected in the near future as Windchime is negotiating with two major female artists for sessions in Nashville.

Country Music's
BEST NEW DUO

**BUD
LOGAN &
WILMA
BURGESS**

Watch Out For Wilma's New Single

"LOVE IS HERE"

#5821

ON

SHANNON
records
a division of
Jim Reeves enterprises



Red O'Donnell's Year in Review

(Continued from page 80)

her "Super Kitty" on Capitol . . . **Charlie Louvin** estimated that he had more than three million miles in his tour travels during past 30 years.

JULY

■ **Connie Smith** and **Barbara Fairchild** were expectant mothers . . . Capitol came up with an artist named **Billy C. Graham**. He sings rather than preaches . . . **Joyce Bush**, a beloved Music Row lady, died of cancer after a long and typical Joyce battle to survive. She was an exec with Tree Music for years . . . One of the most well-liked people in the local music biz. We all still miss her.

Johnny Rodriguez signed to make his dramatic acting debut on TV—a featured role in an "Adam-12" episode on NBC-TV . . . "Hee Haw's" **Barbi Benton** signed with Playboy Records . . . **Ray Stevens'** "The Streak" streaked to no. 1 across the board chartwise. It eventually sold almost four million copies. Ray's the only person I know who actually made any appreciable amount of money from the fad of streaking.

Tom. T. Hall quit the Grand Ole Opry. He said his "produced style of music" was not compatible with the Opry's tradition of no horns, no grand-concert piano, drums, etc. . . . **Tommy Allsup** became new director of Dial Records.

Ronnie Milsap's "Please Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends" (RCA) rated an RW pick . . . It's still being played on radio . . . The first annual **Floyd Cramer** Golf Classic was a success. It was for benefit of Multiple Sclerosis fund.

Andy Williams came to town to do two Columbia sessions with **Billy Sherrill** producing . . . "Marie Laveau" by **Bobby Bare** was no. 1 on the RW country singles chart . . . **Merle Haggard** was temporarily hospitalized in a Michigan hospital for treatment of an intestinal inflammation . . . **Whitey Shaffer**, song-smith deluxe, signed with Acuff-Rose . . . ASCAP's **Eddie Shea** hosted one of his informal cocktail parties and forgot why he did it . . . Eddie is the "Perle Mesta" (malewise) of Music Row . . . A thief ransacked **O.B. McClinton's** motel room and made off with quite a bit of money, credit cards and phone numbers—and O.B.'s Afro comb . . . "Must have been a soul brother," commented O.B. laconically.

Playboy mogul **Hugh Hefner** was here for a cocktailery in honor of singer **Barbi Benton**. He and Barbi have been as close as this for the past five or six years.

Roy Clark said: "I've been on the water wagon for six months and have lost 35 pounds" . . . Sounds like a watered down diet? . . . **Marilyn Sellars'** "One Day At A Time" was still a best 'seller' . . . **Charley Pride** took off for promotion trip to Japan, accompanied by wife **Rosene (Ebby)** . . . Producers **Jim Malloy** and **Billy Mize** joined Mega's staff . . . **Porter Wagoner** announced that **Barbara Lea** had been selected to succeed **Dolly Parton** on his show.

Willie Nelson hosted his "Pick-Nick" at College Station, Tex. (or nearby), and it attracted a July 4-6 turnout of more than 25,000 . . . Portions of the show were taped for an NBC-TV "Midnight Special" . . . "Hee Haw" regular **Gunilla Hutton's** first single release for Dot was "Honey, If You Hear Me Come Back,"—a Ricci Mareno production . . . **Merle Haggard** was signed to write and sing the theme of "Movin On," a new series set for NBC-TV. The song and the series at this point are a success . . . **George Hamilton IV** had a birthday . . . **Chet Atkins**, **Diana Trask** and **Roy Clark** were set for visits to **Johnny Carson's** Tonight Show.

Jeannie C. Riley signed with Mercury Records. Jeannie C. gets around. Perhaps that is why she is so difficult to reach on the phone? . . . RW Hotline columnist **Marie Ratliff** wrote: "Ray Pillow is walking in 'Tall Cotton' WMC, KOYN, WCOU . . ." **Jim Weatherly** came up with a listenable combination of words and music in "The Need to Be" on Buddah . . . **Melba Montgomery** was chanting (for Elektra) "Your Pretty Roses Came Too Late."

Loretta Lynn was at it again—this time with "They Don't Make 'Em Like My Daddy" . . . **Freddy Weller** got a break. He judged a Miss Nude America contest at Roselawn, Ind. (Reckon why **Bobby Bare** wasn't also chosen for the judicial panel?) . . . **Buck Owens'** popular and talented band leader **Don Rich** died in highway accident near Morro Bay, Cal. He was only 33 and had been with Buck's **Buckaroos** for 14 years. **Chet Atkins** and wife **Leona** became grandparents when their daughter **Merle (Mrs. Will) Russell** gave birth to 7 lb. 14 oz. **Jonathan** in a Memphis hospital. Pop's an Irish-born medical doctor.

AUGUST

■ Producer **Walter Haynes** was promoted to vice president at MCA's Nashville operation . . . **Floyd Cramer's** new album "In Concert" (Continued on page 84)

UA (Continued from page 22)

Country star **Del Reeves** remains a hot attraction, as his UA catalogue of albums, (including his "Live at the Palomino" set) continues to keep him on top of the country heap. UA has just released a "Very Best of Del Reeves" package.

Jean Shepard continues to be a major country attraction with her string of country charted singles that range from her smash "Slippin' Away" to her recently charted "I'll Do Anything It Takes." An album of the same name has recently been released. **Charlie Louvin's** new album "It Almost Felt Like Love" insures that this country stalwart is still a hot country star. **Slim Whitman**, who is an internationally recognized country star, is receiving strong reaction in Britain with his UA single "Happy Anniversary."

Such country luminaries as **Jack Reno**, **Crystal Gayle** and **Bobby Harden** also call UA country home. The United Artists Nashville contingent has, in addition,

acquired masters on such artists as **Jan Crutchfield** (one of country's hottest writers, as well), **Tim Holiday** and **Steve Bess**. The latter will be produced by Music City superproducer **Billy Sherrill**.

Crossovers

A fascinating UA/Nashville development has been the crossing over into the country field of many UA acts, aided and abetted by the promotional expertise of UA Nashville. Such stars as the **Dillardards**, **Doc Watson** and **Bobby Goldsboro** have benefitted from this increasingly energized effort. UA pop powerhouse the **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**, in fact, is the featured attraction at this year's UA presentation at the Country Music Association's get-together in Music City. The Colorado-based group is out with a new live album, "Stars and Stripes Forever" and is getting heavy country (as well as pop) airplay with their rocking rendition of the country classic "Battle of New Orleans."



United Artists Records maintains its long tradition of country excellence with its small but select roster of talent. Shown here (from left, top to bottom): a man who is approaching his tenth anniversary with the UA label, **Del Reeves**; newcomer **Sunday Sharpe** who made a pregnant debut with "I'm Having Your Baby" delivered in top chart style; and the youthful band known for excellent multi-record sets and a high regard for country's legacy, the **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**.

Tally-MCA (Continued from page 24)

is currently completing her initial sessions for Tally-MCA. She is the only artist who will be produced directly by Haggard and she, too, is a guest star with his show.

Broad Base

Neither Haggard nor Owen intends to make Tally-MCA an exclusively country-oriented label

and their third debut group, **Silver Creek**, is a contemporary, highly versatile country-rock band from the northwest. No official release date has yet been scheduled, but the group has nearly completed their first album in Bakersfield, with **Roy Nichols** producing.

Pete Drake:

Picker, Producer and Publisher

■ NASHVILLE—Pete Drake is no stranger to country music-lovers all over this country as well as abroad. His own unique style of playing the pedal steel guitar has brought many a record "home" or to the top of the charts. Ask the many artists Drake has played with on their recording sessions; ask the leading producers in Nashville today and the consensus will be the same: Pete Drake plays to complement the artist.

It is only natural that a picker who is usually the leader on other producers' sessions should want

Talbot Takes Stock Of the Music Industry

■ NASHVILLE — Although the cost of pressing records increased approximately 26 percent last year, business continued to grow at the rate of approximately 20 percent over last year, according to Joe Talbot, president of Precision Record Pressing, United Record Pressing and vice president of MFP.

The vinyl shortage caused the cost of vinyl to double during the past 12 months from 19½ cents per lb. to 38½ cents per lb. Vinyl is the largest single cost in record production, with the next largest cost being direct labor.

Talbot noted that his companies had operated under the same basic price structure during the past six years until the 26 percent cost increase this year. Retail prices of records also increased during the past year—singles went from \$1 to \$1.29, or approximately 26 percent.

Precision Record Pressing produced approximately two million albums this year while the single plant, United Record Pressing, pressed approximately 11 million singles. MFP, which does plating and labeling, also saw a 20 percent increase in its related business.

Talbot's plans for the future include the automation of both record plants. "We will have better quality and more consistency and uniformity in the product," said Talbot speaking of the changeover to full automation.

A planned February opening is planned for the Joe Talbot and Associates Building currently under construction at the corner of Hawkins and 15th Avenue S. The 10,000 square foot building will be valued at approximately \$400 thousand and will house Joe Talbot and Associates as well as having office space available for other music industry related firms.

to expand and get into production himself. Three years ago, Drake formed Pete Drake Productions, an independent production company. In those three years he has produced records on Melba Montgomery, David Rogers, Billie Jo Spears, Charlie Louvin, Sorrells Pickard, Buzz Rabin, Anita Carter, Sieve Baron, Jamey Ryan and Linda Hargrove, to name a few. He is also working with new artists that are yet to be heard from.

The "magic" of a Pete Drake production is that every instrument is built around the artist. Drake produces a lot of artists, but he also creates a "sound" for that individual artist. And if "track records" mean anything, he's produced 19 records on David Rogers and had 19 chart records with him. The most outstanding achievement this year, though, is Melba Montgomery's number 1 record "No Charge" written by Harlan Howard.

Nearly two years ago, in order to allow himself more freedom, Drake built a studio in the bottom floor of his publishing offices on 18th Avenue South. Now it seems the only occasion he has to use his own studio is late at night because it's booked most of the time by other producers. Pete's Place (that name just sort of happened) is equipped with a MCI board, a MCI 16-track machine, and 2, 4, and mono Ampex machines. The studio also has facilities for making 8-track cartridge tapes and cassettes.

Cherish Records; Love & Hard Work

■ NASHVILLE—A concept to help provide an alternative to the "rip off artists" for the countless people wanting to record in Nashville was barely a reality in the mind of Don Smith, Dave Shipley and their associates, when Smith's wife Linda came up with a name for the infant company—Cherish Records. A lot of love and hard work over the following two years has found Cherish established as a leader of the small labels, moving into a full-service operation beyond the custom service.

Former Capitol artist Rhett Davis' release of "Meet Me In Atlanta" helped initiate this phase of Cherish's development, along with records by Buck Finley, Rhonda Walters and the Raybon Brothers. A promo tour centered around Finley introduced the artist and the label directly to the countless trade people in the southeast from media reps and broadcast people to distributors, one stops, and retail outlets.

Expansion is the Word At Loretta Lynn Ent.

■ NASHVILLE — Continued expansion marked the year for Loretta Lynn Enterprises as they added Lola Jean Dillon to their staff of writers and continued to get songs recorded by their current writers.

In addition to Dillon, their writers include Jimmy Peppers, Bobby Hardin, William C. Hall, Betty Sue Markworth, Lorene Allen, Zero Jones, Blake Mevis and Bill Haynes.

Big cuts this year were Hall's "Love Is The Foundation" and Pepper's "Some Kind of a Woman." Bobby Hardin wrote the 3-S Tonic commercials recorded by Loretta Lynn, while Betty Sue Markworth wrote "Love's Not Where Love Should Be" on the "Country Partners" album.

Pubberies

Publishing companies in Loretta Lynn Enterprises are Coal Miner (BMI), King Coal (ASCAP), White Line (BMI) and Coal Dust (BMI). The staff there consists of Mooney Lynn, president; Dave Skepner, Loretta's manager; Lorene Allen, office manager; Bill Haynes, general manager; Blake Melvis, assistant to the general manager; and Meredith Stewart, receptionist.

Caprice Records: Up and Coming

■ NASHVILLE — Caprice Records has become one of Nashville's tastest growing independent labels during the past year, since that company's purchase by the present owners, president Don Lewis and vice-president Charles Pohlman. The new owners purchased the company 10 months ago and moved to its present location, 823 17th Ave. South from the Creative Workshop on Azalea Place.

Some of Caprice's artists include Frank Myers, Durwood Haddock, Curtis Young, Buzz Cason and Jack Cotton. Myers enjoyed a national hit this year with "Hanging on to What I've Got" and Haddock enjoyed success with his release of "Angel in an Apron."

Heading the Caprice sales and promotion department is Curtis Wood, while the production staff includes Don Lewis and independent producers Bob Milsap and Earl Ball.

The label also houses two publishing outlets, Sound Off Music (BMI) and Sound Corp Music (ASCAP).

The label's future plans call for the acquisition of a studio, office building and the addition of artists to the current roster.

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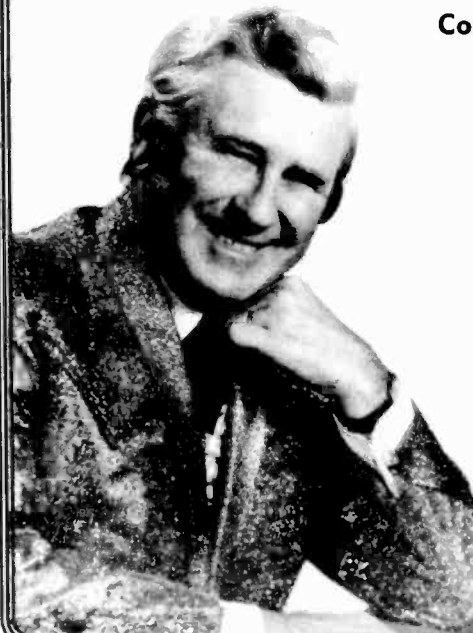
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Red O'Donnell's Year in Review (Continued from page 64)

again with "A Very Special Love Song" . . . **Jeannie Kendall** waxed her first single—"Baby Went Bye Bye" . . . **Joni Mitchell** became the first pop-rock performer to appear in concert at the new Grand Ole Opry House . . . Phoenix, Ariz. sponsored a "Roger Miller Day" . . . Some Music Rowers saw **LaDonna Gatlin** and forgot all about brother **Larry Gatlin** . . . **Jan Howard** signed booking deal with **Joe Taylor** . . . **Jimmy Buffett** co-headlined concert at U. of Alabama with the muchly-publicized actress-singer **Linda Lovelace** of "Deep Throat" film note.

Webb Pierce signed with the William Morris Agency . . . **Karen Wheeler's** latest RCA release was "Born to Love and Satisfy" . . . **Cal Smith's** "Country Bumpkin" was whizzing to hitland via MCA—One of the more entertaining songs of 1974 . . . **J. Cash** hosted the "Country Comes Home" special on NBC-TV . . . **Mel Street's** "You Make Me Feel More Like A Man"—written by **John Riggs**—was a front runner for GRT Records . . . Singer **La Costa** (Tanya Tucker's older sister) signed with Capitol . . . Female singers by the hundreds were applying to fill the vacancy on **Porter Wagoner's** show created by departure of **Dolly Parton** . . . Meanwhile **Diamond Dolly** signed with **Bob Eubanks' American Management, Inc.** of Los Angeles . . . Four of **Charlie Rich's** albums were in the top 10 of RW's country lp chart . . . **Dave Mack** joined GRT as national director of promotion . . . A dog-napper made off with **Sherry Bryce's** year-old Great Dane . . . The dog, Shana by name, was stolen while Sherry was performing at a motel in Tampa, Fla.

MAY

■ **Tom T. Hall** and his **Storytellers Band** appeared on NBC-TV's Today Show . . . **Charlie Rich** announced that he was fatigued from one-night stands and intended to take the month of June off and compose songs . . . **LaWanda Lindsey's** greeting via Capitol was "Hello Out There" (a Cedarwood Music song) . . . Mercury producer **Jerry Kennedy** declined a role in the "W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings" movie . . . Reports were that Kennedy was waiting to be cast opposite **Racquel Welch** in a picture???

Paul Randall was named manager of artist relations and press information at RCA's local office . . . **Stoney Edwards' cut** of "I Will Never Get Over You" (Capitol) was going over with deejays and buyers . . . **Merle Haggard** was growing a beard for first time in his life. "It's a disguise," Merle said. Wife **Bonnie Owens** asked: "Why not rent one?" . . . **Hank Snow**, at age of 60, signed a contract with RCA that could extend his service with the company to 50 years. "If my health stays good, I think I will make it," sayeth Snow.

Mel Tillis was taping a syndicated TV series at Tampa in which he hosts and performs . . . **Loretta Lynn's** good-looking sister **Crystal Gayle** released "Restless" on the UA label . . . RW picked **Tom T. Hall's** "That Song Is Driving Me Crazy" to be a hit . . . **Ervin Woolsey**, promotion specialist, joined the Nashville office of ABC-Dunhill . . . Youth for Christ International cited **June Carter Cash** as its "Woman and Mother of the Year" Award, presented in San Diego.

Anita Carter, daughter of **Mother Maybelle**, and **Bob Wootton**, guitarist with **Johnny Cash's** band, were wed in Las Vegas . . . **Ray Pradines** was hired as public relations director at CMA . . . BMI cited **Boudleaux & Felice Bryant** for their years of turning out royalty-producing songs . . . Boudleaux smiled and said thanks; Felice is still talking (don't shoot, Felice) . . . The **Oak Ridge Boys** took off for a 15-day tour of Europe . . . **Marty Robbins** resumed his hobby of racing autos . . . **Brenda Lee** was hospitalized for treatment of a blood clot in her leg . . . Talent agency biggie **Buddy Lee** hosted a biggie party to celebrate the christening of newest addition to the family—**Anthony Dominic Lee**.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Dove named their daughter **Kimberly Ann** . . . **Mel Tillis** and the **Statesiders** released a single of "Stomp Them Grapes" on MGM—and at last report it was still a stomping good seller . . . **Monument** signed a vocalist named **Cathy O'Shea** . . . **Charley Pride's** "We Could" — a **Felice Bryant** song — was his latest click.

A newcomer on the new Playboy Records—**Mickey Gilley**—had a hit in "Room Full of Roses" . . . **Ray Stevens** said his single of "The Streak" was the best selling of his best-selling career. Yes, even better selling than "Everything Is Beautiful" . . . **Tanya Tucker** was again on the charts; this time with "The Man That Turned My Mama On" . . . 17-year-old **Jamie Kaye** signed with Mercury and if she can sing as good as she looks she can't miss . . . **Jim Black** joined SESAC as gospel music coordinator . . . **Jerry Wallace's** "My Wife's House" was an RW pick . . . Veteran **Red Sovine** had a potential money-maker via Chart in "It'll Come Back" . . . Genial **George Morgan's** "Red Roses from

the Blue Side of Town" was getting some hot reaction.

Ferlin Husky munched off on a 10-day tour of Alaska—and with him was wife **Marvis**. "I'm going to introduce her to some of my relatives up there. Alaska, you know, is full of Huskies," quipped Ferlin.

Tommy Overstreet's "Woman, Your Name Is My Song" had the folks at Dot happy . . . **Sonny James** was moving up on the charts with his version of "Is It Wrong (For Loving You)?"

JUNE

■ **Ray Stevens' "The Streak"** was still streaking to what was to become his all-time best single record commercially . . . **Johnny Rivers** got into **Dave Dudley's** truck—vocally, that is—and had a good thing going in "Six Days On the Road" for the Atlantic label . . . BMI's **Roger (The Red) Sovine** announced that he was going on a diet and nobody believed him. Perhaps because the announcement was issued during bites of pizza at a concert featuring **Larry Gatlin**.

Kris Kristofferson's lp "Spooky Lady's Sideshow" was cutting up on the charts; as was the late **Jim Reeves' "I'd Fight the World."**

The **Pointer Sisters' Blue Thumb** release of "Fairytale" rated a pick on the RW country list of "ones to watch," and whoever clocked that one knew his or her "Fairytale" and/or the Pointer Sisters . . . **Waylon Jennings** met the New York press people and his frank answers to their questions surprised—and charmed them.

Donna (Mrs. Rayford) Hilley was named executive secretary to the board at Tree International Music Co. . . . **Danny Berrier** defeated banker **John Reese** in a playoff for the annual 4-Star Music golf title.

Jim Reeves Enterprises (operated and owned by **Mary Reeves Davis**) expanded its operation by buying Music City Records Studio . . . **Bobby Goldsboro & wife Mary Alice** announced they were expecting a bambino in the mid-Fall . . . **Mel Tillis** bought a 90-acre farm in adjacent Cheatham County on which he plans to raise cattle.

GRT Records signed **Jan Howard** . . . **Dan Beck**, ex-RW Southeastern editor joined CBS Records Group as manager of press & public information country, stationed in Nashville . . . **Chet Atkins' biography, "Country Gentleman,"** as told to author **Bill Neely**, went on sale and was rated PG (Pretty good?) . . . Singer **Conny Van Dyke** was cast for role of singer in the "Framed" movie, starring **Joe Don Baker** (of "Walking Tall" popularity) . . . "Framed" was filming in Nashville . . . **Kenny Price** and **Johnny Paycheck** celebrated birthdays . . . **Jimmy (Kid Cuz'n) West** offered this daffynition of a happy German folk-singer: Cheer lieder. Ach! . . . **Frances Preston** was busy as a switch engine (Amtrak?) at the BMI pop awards in New York . . . **George Hamilton IV & family** moved to new home in Matthews, N.C., described by IVth as "out in the country near Charlotte." The location, that is.

Loretta Lynn & Conway Twitty were warming up a hot record called "As Soon As I Hang Up the Phone" . . . Reckon one third of the royalties got to Ma Bell? . . . **Don Gant** was elected president of Nashville's NARAS chapter . . . Or NARAS' Nashville chapter . . . You figured that one out, **Ellen Wood**. You're the proper one!

Arlene Harden, the singer, reported that she had a lawyer in her family. Husband **Bill Bozeman** received his law degree . . . **Merle Haggard's** "Holding Things Together" got an RW pick . . . **X. Cosse**, veteran entrepreneur who manages **Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph** and **Floyd Cramer**, underwent back surgery . . . **Faron (the Baron) Young** announced he was on the water-wagon . . . Owens-Fair agency's **Gus Barba** didn't get a part in the "W. W. and Dixie Dancekings" movie—but to show he had no ill feelings, he named his new canary **Burt Reynolds** (Will the bird get a centerfold spread in the ornithological magazine?) . . . **Donna Douglas** of the old Beverly Hillbillies TVer, signed with Cherish Records . . . **Ellen Wood** exhibited some of her paintings at ASCAP's art display and received two offers of positions from billboard companies.

Brenda Lee took off on her 12th tour of Japan. Crowds at her month of concerts were fantastic—so was inflation. GRC artist-writer cut "Smoke Filled Bar" for the "Poor Pretty Eddie" movie that stars **Leslie Uggams, Shelley Winters** and **Slim Pickens** . . . **Acuff-Rose** signed to buy **Ray Baker's Blue Crest Music Co.** . . . The third Fan Fair was a success . . . Singer **Don Williams** added his name to list of Dot artists . . . Williams formerly sang with the **Pozo Seco Singers**.

W.D. (Buddy) Killen, who somehow, somehow gets around to producing the biggies, produced several sessions with **Chet Atkins** . . . "I've always wanted to work with Buddy. He is one versatile music man," said Chet. You can imagine Killen's reaction.

Shel Silverstein's "Four Poster Bed" was moving up on the charts for **Brenda Lee** . . . **Connie Cato's** "Sugar Kitten" was a follow up to

(Continued on page 82)

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CMA

(Continued from page 6)

shopping centers, service clubs, newspapers and magazines throughout the U.S. and Canada. The CMA has also been notified that many foreign radio stations, such as 2KY in Australia and BRT in Belgium, are planning Country Music Month promotions.

The Eighth Annual CMA Awards Show, hosted by Johnny Cash, will be telecast live on Monday night, October 14, at 9:00 p.m., CDT on the CBS-TV network. Sponsored by Kraft Foods Corporation, the show will take place at the new Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. In addition to awards presentations in 10 categories of achievement, the evening will be highlighted by the announcement of the newest member elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

This year's Music City U.S.A. Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament, sponsored by the CMA, the Nashville Area Junior Chamber of Commerce, The Tennessean and WSM, Inc., is set for Harpeth Hills Golf Course, October 11-13. On hand for this charitable event will be many of the nation's top entertainers and professional golfers.

CMA's fourth quarterly board meeting and annual membership meeting will be held on October 15 and 17, respectively. Other CMA October activities include a Talent Buyer's Seminar, October 13-15; and International Country Music Show, October 17; the Artist/DJ Tape Sessions, October 18; and the annual CMA Anniversary Cocktail Party, Banquet and Show on October 18. The winners of this year's CMA DJ Awards will be announced during the Anniversary Show.

Ember

(Continued from page 76)

ance of country songs in Europe is on the upswing, and they are getting local, indigenous records on country songs, not only in Europe but also in Japan.

Ember Film Distributors Ltd.

The film distribution company, headed by Eric Greenspan, has continued distribution of two country films, including "From Nashville with Music" (starring Marty Robbins, Faron Young, Charley Pride, Merle Haggard and Buck Owens) and "Road to Nashville" (starring Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins, Don Gibson, Hank Snow, Bill Anderson and Porter Wagoner). The films have played extended-run bookings in over 500 major British and Irish Cinemas, and exposed the Nashville sound to over 700,000 fans.

The entry into television was recently announced. They have acquired world rights to three one-hour BBC-TV specials which star Glen Campbell, Anne Murray and Diana Trask.

A&M (Continued from page 32)

album is "Fall Into Spring."

Tom Jans

Tom Jans also received recognition first as a songwriter with his much-recorded "Loving Arms" and as a finalist in this year's American Song Festival. A&M has just released his solo debut album "Tom Jans."

Joanne Glasscock's first album is "Joanne Glasscock" with songs written by Shel Silverstein except for Joanne's rendering of the Donny Fritz/Troy Seals classic "We Had It All."

Sam Neely is a Texas family man who came into prominence a couple of years ago with the self-composed single, "Loving You Just Crossed My Mind." He was recently signed by A&M via Gross/Kupps Productions and his first album for the label, "Down Home," has spawned the good-time single "You Can Have Her."

The Ozark Mountain Daredevils are six young musicians from Missouri who run the gamut from rock and roll to solid mountain/country. "If You Wanna Get To Heaven," from their first album, became a top 20 hit and a recent tour with Loggins and Messina further increased the size of their audience. Their second album, "It'll Shine When It Shines," is expected in October.

Opry Trust Fund

(Continued from page 6)

The Trust Fund, made up of contributions to the Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebration, has given away \$72,242.43 to 28 people since last year's event. An Opry Trust Fund Board approves all grants. WSM officials and the Grand Ole Opry Stars make up the 14 member board.

Purpose

The purpose of the Fund, established in 1965, is to give financial assistance in time of need or emergency to country musicians or their families. Ten dollars of the \$25 registration fee collected at the annual Opry Celebration is channeled to the Fund. Five dollars of the fee goes to a special anti-piracy fund administered by the Country Music Association. And the remaining \$10 helps defray a portion of the expenses incurred by the participating firms.

WSM, Inc. underwrites all administrative expenses, and no salaries are charged to the Fund. The money is not handled by WSM, but placed in the hands of a Nashville bank. The contributions have been used to do everything from assuring medicine and food to paying hospital and funeral expenses.



A number of acts with country roots this year made their big move into the market with A&M Records. Shown from left (top to bottom): wife/duo partner of Kris Kristofferson and solo success story in her own right Rita Coolidge; the country-rock newcomers whose very name evokes a country setting, The Ozark Mountain Daredevils; singer-songwriter Sam Neely and longtime folk legend and now country superstar, Hoyt Axton.

Grand Ole Opry (Continued from page 6)

In a little over six months, Lawrence Welk, Joni Mitchell, Johnny Cash, Hereford Association and Omega Ranchers Cattle shows, "Tomorrow Show," Norwegian Ballet, the Nashville Symphony, Van Cliburn, James Taylor, Floyd Cramer, Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph, National Baptist Convention, Isaac Hayes, and Bob Hope have all exhibited their skills on stage. The House has also been the scene of a major movie, a full production TV special, a recording session, the

Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, and the Country Music Association Awards Show.

Best Year Ever

The Grand Ole Opry has enjoyed its best year ever. With a bright new broadcasting facility at Opryland USA—judged one of the nation's finest entertainment theme parks—increased demand for Opry show tickets, and the ever rising popularity of country music, the Grand Ole Opry looks forward to the second half century with enthusiastic optimism.



An outside view of the new Opry House.

ROY CLARK

"ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR"

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Shelter *(Continued from page 24)*

"I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," Bill Monroe's "Uncle Pen" and the Ledbetter-Lomax song, "Good Night Irene." The musicians who joined Leon on his country album include Billy Byrd, Chip Young, Carl Radle, Curly Chalker and Shelter artist J.J. Cale.

Cale, a native of Tulsa and a long-time friend of Leon, is rapidly emerging as a top country artist. After no fewer than 10 years performing, writing songs and touring with friends, Cale taped his first Shelter album, "Naturally," in the late 1960s. This was followed by the albums "Really" and "Okie." A quiet man who avoids publicity, Cale taped the title song of his most recent album, "Okie," on his own back porch in Tulsa.

Another artist on the Shelter label is Willis Alan Ramsey. A

Capricorn

(Continued from page 48)

Tom McKeon's initial single for Capricorn is titled "The Devil Came to Birmingham." Tom is currently putting together a group to tour, and he is also preparing for his first album for the label which is to be produced by Johnny Slate and Larry Henley for Windchime Productions in Nashville. Tom also co-wrote "Too Much Love Between Us," Kitty Wells' current single.

In March of 1974, Phil Walden announced the appointment of Gene Amonette to Capricorn Records. As director of country promotion, Amonette was previously with MGM Records based in Nashville. The Capricorn country department is still in its formative stages, but the combination of the artists, and most importantly, the music, can only spell success for the label. Capricorn country is currently in high gear.

WB

(Continued from page 32)

who has a history of country charters.

Two important signings to Warner Bros. are Hillman Hall, brother of country great Tom T. Hall, and Judy Lynn, whose \$75,000 wardrobe and Las Vegas reputation are soon to be matched with a Mike Curb production for Warners.

Warner Bros. is the distributor of Capricorn's country output from such artists as the legendary Kitty Wells, Johnny Darrell, Kenny O'Dell and Bobby Thompson.

Fricke reports that Warner Bros. is getting set to move to larger quarters from the company's current 17th Avenue South office. Also on the horizon for the label is the addition of a country promotion director and sales manager.

native of Alabama who now lives in Austin, Texas, Ramsey says his music was influenced by Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Al Jolson, James Taylor, a variety of prison songs and some field "hollers." Whatever it was, Willis' first album, "Willis Alan Ramsey," contains songs that range from real foot-stompin' country and southern blues to honky-tonk and folk.

Larry Hosford

The most recent addition to Shelter's country roster is Larry Hosford. The son of a truck driver, Larry was raised in Salinas, California. Larry's father played the fiddle and his mother accompanied him on the guitar. Larry doesn't remember when he first started joining his parents, but he certainly picked up his country sound from them. Larry writes all his own songs, and his single, "Long Distance Kisses," was recently released. He and his band, "Fly By Nite," just completed his debut Shelter album. The album was recorded at Bradley's Barn in Nashville.

Ember Means Country in the UK

■ LONDON—The past 12 months have seen an upsurge in Ember's overall activity in the country field in the United Kingdom. All four of the operating divisions have been involved in the country music scene.

Ember Records

Since Ember's inception in 1960, they've been in country. They formed the first independent country line in the United Kingdom to issue country records solely, and called it the Ember Country & Western Series. The first releases were from Starday, and they now have 43 albums in the country line. Releases this past year include three albums by Roy Clark, two by Diana Trask and releases by Tommy Overstreet and Joe Stampley, all as a result of Ember's deal with Dot Records, under which they obtained the rights to Dot albums not released by their original United Kingdom licensee. Other country releases include albums by Bobby Bare, Dave Dudley, Faron Young, the Jordanaires and Glen Campbell.

Ember Concert Division

Persuading the major concert venues to allow a promoter to get a date to present, what is to them, an unknown (in the United Kingdom) country act, is difficult. Artists who are household names in America are, in many cases, unknown in the U.K. There is a need to educate the British public and they need the cooperation of artists and management.

They completed a successful tour with Faron Young and Con-

Tree *(Continued from page 34)*

panded its physical facilities at its international headquarters adding almost 1000 square feet of office space. The company has now set up in-house bookkeeping under the direction of Mary Ellen Appleby, and has a separate royalty division supervised by Ann Kosloff and administered by Betty Fowler.



Tree International president Jack Stapp and executive vice president Buddy Killen are all smiles as they review a record breaking year for the Nashville music complex.

Tree's international reputation with the entertainment industry was again in evidence during the year when the company played host to two international stars, Burt Reynolds and former Beatle Paul McCartney. Reynolds, who recorded an album for Mercury under the direction of Buddy Killen, also stayed in town to film a major motion picture for 20th Century Fox entitled "W.W. and the Dixie Dance Kings." McCartney, who was a guest of Tree, spent six weeks vacationing in the Nashville area with his family and band, and spent time with many of Nashville's writers and musicians to absorb the Nashville sound.

Despite all its successes during the year, Tree and its staff were saddened at the loss of the company's secretary-treasurer, Joyce Bush. Mrs. Bush had been instrumental in the growth of the company and died in June, after a lengthy illness.

Playboy

(Continued from page 20)

under the direction of Playboy's man in Nashville, Eddie Kilroy, came right back with an even stronger followup, "I Overlooked an Orchid."

The label, moving very deliberately under the direction of veteran record man Tom Takayoshi, has added only three other acts to their country roster with Kilroy again guiding them. Heading the list of signees recently is the well known TV and supper-club singing star Barbi Benton, while Chuck Price is making noise with his first release on Playboy of a Krisofferson song, "Slow Down." Bringing their roster up to date is De Wayne Phillips, a youngster bound for stardom, whose list of credits despite his youth is more than impressive.



Mickey Gilley

Kilroy, active on the Nashville scene for several years, attributes the success of Playboy's venture into country music to complete cooperation of the label's heirarchy from Takayoshi and his team of knowledgeable record men including Joe Ruffino, national sales manager, Don Shain, director of a&r, and Jack Hakim, national promotion manager.

(Continued on page 78)



I Love My Friends THANK YOU!

Charlie Rich

TOP MALE VOCALIST — SINGLES

TOP MALE VOCALIST — ALBUMS

TOP SINGLE — "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL"

TOP ALBUM — "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS"



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CAPRICORN RECORDS.



THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

OCT. 19	OCT. 12		WKS. ON CHART
3	1	I OVERLOOKED AN ORCHID MICKEY GILLEY— Playboy 6004	11
2	6	I SEE THE WANT TO IN YOUR EYES CONWAY TWITTY— MCA 40282	8
3	4	A MI ESPOSA CON AMOR SONNY JAMES—Columbia 3-10001	12
4	2	I LOVE MY FRIEND CHARLIE RICH—Epic 8-20006	11
5	7	I HONESTLY LOVE YOU OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN—MCA 40280	8
6	8	PLEASE DON'T STOP LOVING ME PORTER & DOLLY— RCA PB-10010	11
7	12	MISSISSIPPI COTTON PICKIN' DELTA TOWN CHARLEY PRIDE—RCA PB-10030	8
8	14	WOMAN TO WOMAN TAMMY WYNETTE—Epic 5-50008	10
9	10	IF I MISS YOU AGAIN TONIGHT TOMMY OVERSTREET— Dot DCA-17515	12
10	11	BETWEEN LUST AND WATCHING TV CAL SMITH—MCA 40265	11
11	15	I'M HAVING YOUR BABY 9 SUNDAY SHARPE— United Artists XW507-X	
12	17	LOVE IS LIKE A BUTTERFLY 7 DOLLY PARTON—RCA PB 10031	
13	1	BONAPARTE'S RETREAT 11 GLEN CAMPBELL— Capitol 3926	
14	16	THE GREAT DIVIDE 8 ROY CLARK—Dot 17518	
15	19	TROUBLE IN PARADISE 7 LORETTA LYNN—MCA 40283	
16	23	BONEY FINGERS 8 HOYT AXTON—A&M 1607	
17	5	I'M A RAMBLIN' MAN 11 WAYLON JENNINGS— RCA PB-10020	
18	20	AFTER THE FIRE IS GONE 9 WILLIE NELSON & TRACY NELSON—Atlantic 4028	
19	22	TEN COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE DAVID HOUSTON & BARBARA MANDRELL—Epic 5-20005	
20	24	DON'T TELL (THAT SWEET OH' LADY OF MINE) 7 JOHNNY CARVER—ABC 12017	
21	28	COUNTRY IS 5 TOM T. HALL—Mercury 73617	
22	25	COME ON IN AND LET ME LOVE YOU 10 LOIS JOHNSON—20th Century TC 2106	
23	29	TAKE ME HOME TO SOMEWHERE 5 JOE STAMPLEY—Dot DOA- 17522	
24	30	BRING BACK YOUR LOVE TO ME 7 DON GIBSON—Hckory H 327	
25	33	DELTA DIRT 6 LARRY GATLIN—Monument ZS8-8622	
26	9	I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE 15 DON WILLIAMS—Dot DOA-17516	
27	39	GET ON MY LOVE TRAIN 5 LaCOSTA—Capitol 3945	
28	38	WELCOME TO THE SUNSHINE 6 JEANNE PRUETT—MCA 40284	
29	31	FAIRYTALE 9 POINTER SISTERS— Blue Thumb 254 (ABC)	
30	35	ANOTHER GOODBYE SONG 6 REX ALLEN, JR.— Warner Bros. WBS 8000	
31	13	WHO LEFT THE DOOR TO HEAVEN OPEN 13 HANK THOMPSON— Dot DOA-17512	
32	36	HOLD ON TO YOUR MAN 7 DIANA TRASK—Dot DOA-17520	
33	37	WORKIN' AT THE CARWASH BLUES 6 TONY BOOTH—Capitol 3943	
34	34	IN MY LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD 8 MARIE OSMOND—MGM 14694	
35	42	YOU'RE NOT GETTING OLD 4 FREDDY WELLER— Columbia 3-10016	
36	46	CREDIT CARD SONG 4 DICK FELLER— United Artists 535	
37	41	WHERE'D I COME FROM 4 BOBBY BARE, JR. & MAMA— RCA 10037	
38	49	BACK HOME AGAIN 3 JOHN DENVER—RCA 10065	
39	48	LONG BLACK VEIL 6 SAMMI SMITH—Mega MR1214	
40	40	THE WAY I'M NEEDING YOU 10 CLIFF COCHRAN— Enterprise 9103	
41	50	CAN'T YOU FEEL IT 4 DAVID HOUSTON— Epic 8-50009	
42	47	IT AMAZES ME 8 MARY KAY JAMES— AVCO CAV 601	
43	50	HE CAN BE MINE 4 JEANNIE SEELY—MCA 40297	
44	69	I CAN HELP 2 BILLY SWAN— Monument ZS8-8621	
45	56	RAINDROPS 4 NARVEL FELTS—Cinnamon 809	
46	21	LIKE A FIRST TIME THING 9 RAY PRICE—Columbia 3-10006	
47	60	SON OF A ROTTEN GAMBLER 3 ANNE MURRAY—Capitol P-3955	
48	58	MEMORY MAKER 3 MEL TILLIS—MGM M14744	
49	52	LET'S TRUCK TOGETHER 6 KENNY PRICE—RCA PB-10039	
50	53	COUNTERFEIT COWBOY 6 DAVE DUDLEY—Rice PR 5069	
51	54	YOU GET TO ME 6 EDDIE RABBITT—Elektra 45895	
52	59	SHE BURNED THE LITTLE ROADSIDE TAVERN DOWN 3 JOHNNY RUSSELL—RCA 10038	
53	55	STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES 5 MAC DAVIS—Columbia 3-10018	
54	61	GET UP, I THINK I LOVE YOU 3 JIM ED BROWN—RCA 10047	
55	63	SHE CALLED ME BABY 2 CHARLIE RICH—RCA PB-10062	
56	73	LUCKY ARMS 2 LEFTY FRIZZELL—ABC 12023	
57	72	DIXIE LILLY 3 ROY DRUSKY—Capitol 3942	
58	18	BIG FOUR POSTER BED 13 BRENDA LEE—MCA 40262	
59	64	ROOM FOR A BOY NEVER USED 3 FERLIN HUSKY—ABC 12021	
60	27	PLEASE DON'T TELL ME HOW THE STORY ENDS 13 RONNIE MILSAP—RCA APBO-0313	
61	65	I JUST CAN'T HELP BELIEVIN' 3 DAVID RODGERS— Atlantic CY 4-204	
62	70	EVERYTIME I TURN THE RADIO ON 2 BILL ANDERSON—MCA 40304	
63	68	BABY'S GONE 3 BOBBY WRIGHT—ABC 12028	
64	—	WE'RE OVER 1 JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ— Mercury 73621	
65	—	MUSICAL CHAIRS 1 TOMPALL GLASER— MGM M14740	
66	—	TWO GUN DADDY 1 MARTY ROBBINS—MCA 40296	
67	67	JUST ANOTHER COWBOY SONG 4 DOYLE HOLLY—Barnaby 605	
68	—	OH, HOW HAPPY 1 SHERRY BRYCE—MGM 14747	
69	74	DOWN TO THE END OF THE WINE 1 JACK BLANCHARD & MISTY MORGAN	
70	75	LOVE IS HERE 2 WILMA BURGESS—Shannon S821	
71	71	WELCOME BACK TO MY WORLD 3 CARL BELEW—MCA 40276	
72	—	CANDY MOUNTAIN 1 MELODY GEORGE MORGAN—MCA 40298	
73	—	JUKEBOX 1 JACK RENO—United Artists UA-XW502-X	
74	—	NOT TONIGHT 1 LITTLE DAVID WILKINS— MCA 40199	
75	—	GONE 1 NANCY WAYNE—20th Century TC 2124	

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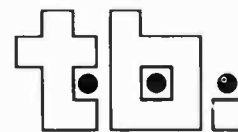


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THE COUNTRY ALBUM CHART

OCTOBER 19, 1974

OCT. 19	OCT. 12		WKS. ON CHART
1	1	BACK HOME AGAIN JOHN DENVER—RCA CPL1-0548	12
2	3	STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES MAC DAVIS—Columbia KC 32582	25
3	2	COUNTRY PARTNERS CONWAY & LORETTA—MCA 427	16
4	4	IF YOU LOVE ME (LET ME KNOW) OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN—MCA 411	20
5	5	COUNTRY BUMPKIN CAL SMITH—MCA 424	20
6	8	ROOM FULL OF ROSES MICKEY GILLEY—Playboy PB 128	19
7	9	COUNTRY IS TOM T. HALL—Mercury SRM1-1009	7
8	11	I'M NOT THROUGH LOVING YOU YET CONWAY TWITTY—MCA 441	8
9	10	ANNE MURRAY COUNTRY—Capitol ST 11324	7
10	14	PORTER AND DOLLY—RCA APL1-0646	8
11	12	GRAND TOUR—GEORGE JONES—Epic KE 33083	8
12	6	BEHIND CLOSED DOORS CHARLIE RICH—Epic KE 33247	18
13	7	ONE DAY AT A TIME MARILYN SELLERS—Mega MLPS-602	12
14	15	I JUST STARTED HATING CHEATING SONGS TODAY MOE BANDY—GRC GA-10005	
15	13	ELVIS LIVE ON STAGE IN MEMPHIS—RCA CPL1-0606	13
16	16	PURE LOVE RONNIE MILSAP—RCA APL1 0500	25
17	18	LORETTA LYNN'S GREATEST HITS, VOL 2—MCA 120	20
18	23	I'LL DO ANYTHING IT TAKES JEAN SHEPARD—United Artists LA307-R	5
19	28	LOVE IS LIKE A BUTTERFLY DOLLY PARTON—RCA APL1-0712	4
20	29	THEY DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE MY DADDY LORETTA LYNN—MCA 444	4
21	27	RAY STEVENS' GREATEST HITS—Barnaby BR 5004	3
22	20	JOHNNY PAYCHECK'S GREATEST HITS—Epic KE 31933	7
23	26	NO WORD ON ME DICK FELLER—Asylum CM-1	5
24	34	NASHVILLE HIT MAN CHARLIE McCOY—Monument 32922	3
25	43	THE RAMBLIN' MAN WAYLON JENNINGS—RCA APL1-0734	2
26	42	I NEVER KNEW CONNIE SMITH—Columbia KC 33055	3
27	45	A MI ESPOSA CON AMOR SONNY JAMES—Columbia KC 33056	2
28	39	HIS 30TH ALBUM MERLE HAGGARD—Capitol ST 11331	3
29	31	OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN—MCA 389	40
30	30	PICKIN' UP RED, WHITE & BLUE (GRASS)—GRC GA-10003	5
31	33	STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER NITTY GRITTY BAND—United Artists LA184-J2	6
32	24	FOR THE LAST TIME BOB WILLS AND TEXAS PLAYBOYS—UA-LA216-J2	20
33	31	SUPER CONNIE CATO—Capitol ST 11312	9
34	41	STANDING IN YOUR LINE BARBARA FAIRCHILD—Columbia KC 33058	3
35	17	RUB IT IN BILLY CRASH CRADDOCK—ABC ABCX-817	18
36	19	COUNTRY HAM JERRY CLOWER—MCA 417	14
37	25	VERY SPECIAL LOVE SONGS CHARLIE RICH—Epic KE 32531	31
38	22	GOOD AND COUNTRY MARTY ROBBINS—MCA 421	15
39	37	IN MY LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD MARIE OSMOND—MGM M3G-4944	15
40	32	JIM STAFFORD—MGM SE 4947	29
41	50	SINGIN' IN THE KITCHEN BOBBY BARE & FAMILY—RCA APL1-0700	2
42	51	THIS TIME I ALMOST MADE IT BARBARA MANDRELL—Columbia KC 32959	3
43	47	GUY & RAJNA COUNTRY—Ranwood R8134	4
44	40	BOOGITY BOOGITY RAY STEVENS—Barnaby BR 6003	18
45	38	BEST OF CHARLIE RICH—Epic KE 31933	22
46	44	JEANNE PRUETT—MCA 388	14
47	56	FINER THINGS IN LIFE RED STEAGALL—Capitol ST 11321	2
48	35	THERE WON'T BE ANYMORE CHARLIE RICH—RCA APL1-0433	38
49	36	CONNIE SMITH NOW—RCA APL1-0607	11
50	48	SPOOKY LADY'S SIDESHOW KRIS KRISTOFFERSON—Monument PZ32914	21
51	54	FOR WIVES AND LOVERS JERRY WALLACE—MCA 408	4
52	60	RAIN RAINBOW LARRY GATLIN—Monument K 233069	2
53	—	SONGS ABOUT LADIES AND LOVE JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ—Mercury SRM1-1012	1
54	53	IN CONCERT FLOYD CRAMER—RCA APL1-0661	10
55	52	HEY THERE GIRL DAVID ROGERS—Atlantic SD 7306	10
56	—	IT'S A MONSTER'S HOLIDAY BUCK OWENS—Capitol ST 11332	1
57	46	GEORGE JONES SINGS HIS SONGS—RCA APL1-0612	9
58	49	STOMP THEM GRAPES MEL TILLIS—MGM M3G-4960	13
59	57	THIS TIME WAYLON JENNINGS—RCA CPL1-0539	26
60	59	SEXY LADY FREDDY WELLER—Columbia KC 32958	14
61	62	VERY BEST OF DON GIBSON—Hickory H3G-4502	16
62	55	COUNTRY FEELING CHARLEY PRIDE—RCA APL1-0534	23
63	61	THAT'S YOU AND ME HANK SNOW—RCA APL1-0608	11
64	58	FIVE FEET HIGH AND RISING JOHNNY CASH—Columbia C 32951	14
65	63	LOVE IS A GENTLE THING BARBARA FAIRCHILD—Columbia C 32960	12
66	—	HIGHWAY HEADIN' SOUTH PORTER WAGONER—RCA APL1-0713	1
67	64	WHISPERING BILL ANDERSON—MCA 416	15
68	—	LITTLE DAVID WILKINS—MCA 445	1
69	66	I'D FIGHT THE WORLD JIM REEVES—RCA APL1-0712	21
70	65	HOUSTON, I'M COMING TO SEE YOU GLEN CAMPBELL—Capitol ST 11293	19
71	70	HANG IN THERE, GIRL FREDDIE HART—Capitol ST 11296	24
72	68	IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH DECEMBER MERLE HAGGARD—Capitol ST 11276	32
73	67	1-40 COUNTRY JERRY LEE LEWIS—Mercury SRM1-710	17
74	69	MAMA KERSHAW'S BOY DOUG KERSHAW—Warner Bros. BS 2793	21
75	71	IT'S THAT TIME OF NIGHT JIM ED BROWN—RCA APL1-0572	15

Gary Stewart

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Latest Album

APL1-0544



RCA Records
and Tapes

Grady Forms Company

■ NASHVILLE — Jack Grady has announced the formation of his own company, Jack Grady and Associates. The company will be involved in artist representation, independent promotion and music publishing.

Effective immediately Jack Grady and Associates will represent David Rubinson and Friends of San Francisco. Grady has also announced immediate plans for the Pointer Sisters to come to Nashville the week of October 18 from London for participation in the annual D. J. Convention, an appearance at the Grand Ole Opry and recording sessions at Quadrophonic Recording Studios, where Rubinson produced the Pointers current hit on Blue Thumb Records, "Fairytale."

In making the announcement Grady said his company will continue its association with Larson & Shiffman Management firm of Hollywood and representation of their publishing companies, Portofino and Savona Music, which include such writers as Kenny Loggins, Casey Kelly, Dalton & Durbury and Ronnie Wilkens.

Gospel Luncheon Hosted by SESAC

■ NASHVILLE — SESAC played host to its publisher and writer affiliates and its friends and colleagues in the world of gospel music Oct. 3. This year's affair was a luncheon gala and again held at the Woodmont Country Club. The guest list of well over 150 included luminaries from every field of the gospel music industry.

Representing SESAC Inc., were its president, Mrs. Alice Prager, and vice presidents Norman Odium and W. F. Myers of the New York office. Representing the company's Nashville office were Bob Thompson, executive director; Miss Aleene Jackson, public relations coordinator; Miss Fran Watkins, secretary; and Jim Black, SESAC's Nashville gospel music coordinator. Black is the 1974 Dove Award winner as the Gospel Disc Jockey of the year. Black, Odium and Myers currently serve as members of the Gospel Music Association's board of directors.

Williams' JMI Product Bought by ABC/Dot

■ NASHVILLE — Jim Foglesong, president of ABC/Dot Records, has announced the purchase of all Don Williams product previously owned by JMI Records.

Williams signed with ABC/Dot earlier this year after a tenure with JMI. In making the announcement, Foglesong noted that a large sum of money was involved and that he, vice president of sales and promotion Larry Baunach and their staff were most appreciative of the financial support given by Dot's new owners, ABC Records.

Banquet Talent Set by CMA

■ NASHVILLE — CMA's Entertainer of the Year for 1973, Roy Clark, will be the emcee on CMA's 16th Anniversary Banquet and Show set for Friday, October 18 at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium.

Joining Clark on the all-star show will be Mickey Gilley, Johnny Gimble, Charlie McCoy, Barbara Mandrell, Melba Montgomery, Ben Smathers and the Stoney Mountain Cloggers, Cal Smith, Mel Tillis and Hank Snow. Mrs. Tex (Dorothy) Ritter will take part in a special CMA tribute to her famous husband, who passed away this past January.

The evening will begin with a cocktail party at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m. and the show at 9:00 p.m.

Written by CMA director Bob Tubert, the show will be produced by Frank Jones of Capitol Records. Hank Levine will handle the musical arrangements and conduct the orchestra.

Eloise Hawkins Heads Grandpa Jones Ent.

■ NASHVILLE — Eloise Jones Hawkins, daughter of Grandpa Jones, has taken over Grandpa Jones Enterprises. Eloise will be handling all business matters and will be booking Grandpa exclusively. Eloise has worked previously for Fred Foster of Monument Records and Boudleaux and Felice Bryant of House of Bryant Publications.

NASHVILLE REPORT

By RED O'DONNELL



■ Music Row scuttlebutt: Tanya Tucker leaving CBS Records, where the 16-year-old singer reaped lotsa royalties under savvy producer Billy Sherrill? Tanya shifts around quite a bit for a teenager. For instance she's now with her third manager and if the rumor is true about her exit her next diskery affiliation will be no. 3.

Billy Swan's Monument single of "I Can Help" has hit potential. It was not too many years ago that nice guy Billy was a "band boy" for the

Masters Festival of Music (Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph, Floyd Cramer, et al) . . . By the time you are reading this Nashville will prepared to welcome an influx of delegates to the annual Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebration and Country Music Deejay Convention.

Epic's Dave Loggins goes for the names of cities in his recordings: "Please Come to Boston" was a recent hit. The follow-up is "Girl from Knoxville" . . . This is fame: Charlie Rich is now involved in the manufacture and sales of "Silver Fox Blue Jeans."

Dot artist Ray Griff taped an appearance on the syndicated Reed Farrell TV talk show that is skedded to air during the week of Oct. 28—Nov. 1 . . . When Danny Davis took his Nashville Brass to perform at Blanton Memorial Stadium in Shelby, N.C. recently, it was his first visit to the city since 1947. "I was playing for Gene Krupa then," Davis recalled. "We worked a benefit show at the National Guard Armory."

The Oak Ridge Boys sang for more than 6300 at two shows at the Northeast Alabama State Fair in Huntsville—and that turnout set a new record in the 13-year-history of the exposition.

Mickey Gilley would make a good rep for the florist biz. He hit with a recording of "Room Full of Roses" and then did another best seller, "I Overlooked An Orchid" . . . A pair of oldies but goodies. Gilley is on the Playboy label, so how come I never see him with a bunny?

Susan Raye isn't the only songstress with her leg in a cast. Mary Lou Turner of the Bill Anderson Show suffered a broken leg when she fell from a ramp while signing autographs at a Wheeling, West Va. show . . . "She's in a cast and on crutches, but will make it to the annual goings-on here this week," Anderson reports.

By the way, Anderson & Co. performed last weekend at Purdue University (Lafayette, Ind.)—the first country show to appear there. "Donna Fargo was on the show and it went over well with the students. The promoters were encouraged and said they're going to try it again," Anderson advised.

Larry Trider's second single for Ranwood Records—"I'm Coming Nashville"—was written and produced by Ricci Mareno—in Nashville!

Hank Thompson was involved in a recent near-air tragedy at Tulsa's International Airport. One of the engines of his Cessna 310 malfunctioned seconds after takeoff and almost collided with an American Airlines 707. A pilot for 25 years, Hank managed to make a landing without injury to his passengers or himself.

Dot artist Diana Trask performed for eight days at Dallas' Fairmount Hotel and received standing ovations after every show . . . Quite a performer; quite a gal! . . . Pretty Gunilla Hutton is scheduled to be a panelist on CBS-TV's Match Game. . . . Buck Owens' dinner date the other evening was his resident beaut co-worker on "Hee Haw": Lisa Todd. . . . They were at one of city's swankiest restaurants—not at a hamburger drive-in.

Oct. 12 was "Loretta Lynn Day" in Kentucky . . . So proclaimed by the Bluegrass State's Gov. Wendell Ford. . . . Del Reeves headlines the musical prelude (what fancy words?) at the annual American 500 auto race in Rockingham, N.C. next Saturday.

COUNTRY PICKS OF THE WEEK

SINGLE



BOB WILLS AND HIS TEXAS PLAYBOYS, "FADED LOVE" (Hill & Range, BMI), "SAN ANTONIO ROSE" (Bourne Co., ASCAP). Culled from the lp "For The Last Time," these two classics will get instant response as the legend of western swing takes over the radio waves once again. A delight to young and old alike. United Artists UA-XW556-X.

SLEEPER



PAUL DAVIS, "RIDE 'EM, COWBOY" (Web IV). The cowboy sound has never been done better than this easy-gaited number. Newcomer breaks out of the chute with a champion—certain to be in the winner's circle when the charts are added up. He's got the record rodeo sewn up. Bang B-712.

ALBUM

JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ, "SONGS ABOUT LADIES AND LOVE." A superstar already—and this is only his fourth album. Each album from Rodriguez gets better and this is no exception. Great cuts include "I Was Born a Traveling Man," "I'm Not That Good At Goodbye" and "Someone Loves You, Honey." Mercury SRM 1-1012.



Buddy Lee's Roster Rings the Hit Bell

■ NASHVILLE—Buddy Lee, whose slogan is "All over the country, all over the world," continued to add new acts to his impressive roster of country artists in 1974.

Additions included Jack Blanchard and Misty Morgan, Billy Thundercloud and the Chieftones, Stonewall Jackson and the Minutemen, LaCosta, Marilyn Sellars Show, and Eric Weissberg & Deliverance.

Other artists on the roster are Roy Acuff, Jr., Urel Albert, Rex Allen & the Men of the West, Ernie Ashworth, Johnny Bernard/Julie Jones Show, Wilma Burgess, Randy & Sandy Burnett, Carl & Pearl Butler, Bill Carlisle, Tommy Cash & the Tomcats, the Country Cavaleers, Alice Creech, Mike Curb Congregation, Dick Curless Show, Pat Daisy, Gov. Jimmy Davis & Anna Gordon Davis, Skeeter Davis Show, Penny DeHaven, Johnny Dot Show, Kent Fox, Lefty Frizzell, Lois Frizzell, Don Gibson, Martha Hall & the Hallmarks, Clay Hart, the Musical Harts, the Imperials, Lois Johnson/Don Silvers Show, Kelly, Claude King Show, Faye LaBeau, Bobbi Martin, Darrell McCall Show, Sam & Kirk McGee, Shirl Milete, George Morgan w/ Little Roy Wiggins, Jim Mundy, Danny Davis & the Nashville Brass, Gary

S. Paxton, Stu Phillips & the Balladeers, Marvin Rainwater, Bobby G. Rice, Tommy Roe & Trio, Pam & Alan Ross, Bobbie Roy, Bob Sanders, Kenny Serratt, Carl Smith, Red Sovine, Arnett Stratton & the Knights Out, Tanya Tucker Show, George Wallace, Jr., Buck White & the Down Home Show, Hank Williams, Jr. Show, Al "Porky" Witherow Show and Larry Woods.

Office personnel includes Buddy Lee, president; Johnnie Massey, vice president and agents Jimmy Selph; Vic Ames; Jerry Rivers; John Centinaro; Larry Wilt; and Doug Wayne.

In addition, the pop division of Buddy Lee Attractions is now headed by Mike Figlio with agents Buddy Day and Frank Bearman.

Danny Davis

(Continued from page 58)

plane. A private cabin, with desk and various accessories accommodates him adequately for such business. Two bars and a tiny kitchen can curb the crew's relative appetite at any given hour. And a tape deck helps to soothe jangled nerves on jaunts that take long flight hours.

House of Loyd Is Nashville's 'A' Side

■ NASHVILLE — House of Loyd, Inc., "Nashville's 'A' Side on the East Side," has expanded in the past year to ownership or management of six active publishing companies.

Under the leadership of newly-named president Lola Scobey, the two-year-old company has, in the past year, placed strong emphasis on publishing, and now directs Hardtack Music, Lyn-Lou Music and Loyd of Nashville Music (all BMI), and Bill Black Music, Pot O' Gold Music and House of Loyd Music (all ASCAP).

Susan O'Donnell, operations director, works with Ms. Scobey in all phases of company operation.

Activity

The organization has had approximately 30 cuts in the last six months, including recordings by Ferlin Husky, Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge, Don Ho, Brush Arbor, Kinky Friedman, Lonzo and Oscar, Vernon Oxford and Barbi Benton.

Recently, House of Loyd announced affiliation with independent producer Ken Mansfield's Frontlawn and Backlawn Music in Los Angeles, creating west coast representation for material in the six catalogues.

Writers who material House of Loyd handles exclusively include Jim Aho, Joe Sun, Hank Riddle, and J. Anthony Scott, "The Last of the Great American Whistlers."

Prominent copyrights in the affiliated catalogues include "Sheriff of Boone County" by Elson Smith, "Occasional Wife" by Jim Kandy, "See the Big Man Cry" by Ed Bruce and "Lover Please" by Billy Swan. Bill Black Music, formerly based in Memphis, includes numerous songs recorded by the Bill Black Combo.

Label

Loyd of Nashville Records, the company's record label, has this year released records by Harrison Tyner and Barbara Ray, with a single by Paul Metcalf, "Some Sweet Morning," to be released in the next few weeks.

House of Loyd is also active in providing promotional mailing and art services for independent record labels. Hank Riddle coordinates this division, working with free lance artist Joe Sun.

House of Loyd's slogan, "Nashville's 'A' Side on the East Side," derives from its location near the King of the Road Hotel in East Nashville, approximately three minutes from Music Row.

Susan*

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P.S. Mercury says "Thank You" too, even though they wouldn't spring for any of the Ad.

Red O'Donnell's Year in Review (Continued from page 62)

talking about the singing of Monument artist **Larry Gatlin** . . . **Charley Pride** was on a four week vacation working out with the Texas Rangers at Pompano Beach, Fla. and the Milwaukee Brewers at Tempe, Ariz. . . . (Those are baseball teams, girls) . . . **George Hamilton IV** was playing to sellouts in England . . . MCA veteran veep **Owen Bradley** underwent successful surgery of the colon.

Johnny Cash celebrated his 42nd birthday and sister **Reba Hancock** gifted him with a pinball machine . . . Cash is, if anything, a "tilt" expert . . . **Merle Haggard** turned dramatic actor on us and appeared in an episode of ABC-TV's "Doc Elliott." There were bright reports on **Hank Williams Jr.'s** cut of "Rainy Night in Georgia."

Roy Drusky signed with Capitol . . . **George Hamilton IV**, last reported in England, surfaced in Moscow, where his folk songs garnered bravos—or whatever the Russians invent for bravos . . . **Tina Jones** (age 8) was making appearances with her parents **George Jones** and **Tammy Wynette** at several shows . . . Stax Records signed **Glenn Yarborough** and the **Limelighters** to a contract.

The "Streak" was the thing (almost) and Nashville's Music Row saw a few of the "in crowd" out of their duds . . . Sorry about that, **Ethel** . . . GRC's **Moe Bandy** had a hit in "I Just Started Hatin' Cheatin' Songs Today"—or so his promo man **Wally (the Cork) Cochran** whispered . . . It was produced by **Ray Baker** . . . **Buck Owens** was on a tour of the Orient—and advised he was playing to sellouts . . . **Lester Flatt** cut an lp with the guru of bluegrass, **Bill Monroe**. It was for RCA with **Bob Ferguson** producing . . . **Ferlin Husky** entertained at party for Alabama Gov. **George Wallace** and his good-looking wife **Cornelia**.

Faron Young described his "Some Kind of Woman" Mercury single as "some kind of a fantastic recording" . . . And you know **Faron (The Baron)** doesn't exaggerate . . . "He tells it like it is," says **Billy Deaton** . . . The CMA's elected "Entertainer of the Year" had an album on the market called "The Entertainer." . . . Veteran picker **Bennie Hess** was mending from open heart surgery . . . It was announced that the local music industry was going to salute **Red O'Donnell** at a dinner . . . And you just knew it was going to be a success when the trades printed stories about the event.

Just as the winds of March were losing some of their strength, **Ray Stevens** came breezing in with a single titled "The Streak" that was strong enough to eventually sell more than three million copies.

APRIL

■ **RW** picked **Olivia Newton-John's** "If You Love Me (Let Me Know)" as a winner—and did it ever win! . . . **Archie Campbell** of "Hee Haw" signed as official spokesman for the Jerry Restaurant, Inc. chain in seven southern states. "No money," admitted Archie, "Just all the black coffee I can drink for free" . . . The reaction to sultry **Diana Trask's** personal appearances was uptempo and upbeat—and agent **Jim Halsey** was all smiles . . . **Johnny Cash's** Columbia single of "Ragged Old Flag" hit the market.

Merle Haggard played two shows at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum . . . "Hee Haw" beaut **Gunilla Hutton** was set for recording session—make that Dot recording session—under direction of **Ricci (Smiley) Mareno** . . . A singer with the odd name of **Paul Click** signed with a label with an even stranger title of **Brokun Records** . . . The **Fargo Express** . . . **Donna**—was no **Avis** but her latest release was "I'll Try A Little Bit Harder" . . . **Donna** tries so hard sometimes it Hertz (Oops)!

Teenager **Tanya Tucker's** latest no. 1 for Columbia had the almost X-rated title of "Would You Lay With Me" . . . **Chet Atkins** and his idol **Merle Travis** got together in California and cut the "Atkins-Travis Traveling Show" album . . . **Jerry Reed** signed for major role in "W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings" motion picture. He said acting in films was the hardest work he'd ever done . . . **Hank Snow** declared that his "Hello Love" was his first hit since "Movin' On" more than nine years ago.

Del Reeves and lovely wife **Ellen** celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. Joked **Ellen**: "Anybody who lived with **Del** for 18 years deserves a medal—a St. Christopher's medal" . . . In between humorous speeches, **Jerry Clower** was making notes for an autobiography . . . **Lloyd Green's** steel guitar sounded silvery with a Monument single of the **Bob Wills'** oldie, "San Antonio Rose" . . . **Charlie Rich** was in

(Continued on page 80)

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"WE'RE OVER"**

Photo By: Hoose Powell

NSA: Success for the Songwriter

(Continued from page 6)

Barnhill, Dave Burgess, Mary Reeves Davis, John Denny, Don Devaney, Harlan Howard, William Ivey, Charlie Monk, Frances Preston and Elmo Mercer. Directors at large are Bob Rest, Tom T. Hall, Eddie Miller and Chuck Rogers. Maggie Cavender serves as the association's executive director. These people meet once every month to implement future projects and goals for NSA.

NSA provides its membership with a monthly newsletter to keep each member abreast of what the association is doing. A recording schedule informing the members of the various artists who have scheduled recording sessions is included with the newsletter.

NSA, with its counsel, is working diligently toward protective writer measures to secure a good revision of the copyright law; and the board of directors, through committee, is fighting for tight legislation in all states which will make "piracy" of music a federal offense.

NSA holds an annual songwriters award banquet in which achievement of writers is recognized. These writer awards are voted upon by the entire membership. Also, an annual Hall of Fame banquet honoring those

songwriters who have achieved the highest plateau of professionalism is always a highlight of the NSA year.

The Nashville Songwriters Association, in conjunction with the University of Tennessee at Nashville, has conducted five seminars at the University. These courses are offered each year and are taught by prominent Nashville songwriters along with the professor of music at the University.

NSA has come a long way since that day in 1967 when those few dedicated people joined together. The association boasts of a roster of well over seven hundred members . . . ever growing, ever projecting goals for the benefit of its members—the songwriters.

McAlpin 'Moonlites'

■ NASHVILLE — Vic McAlpin, noted Nashville songwriter, began two publishing companies this year to publish the songs of himself and writers Jimmie Peters, Marion Francis and Elton Williams.

The parent company is Moonlite Productions, Inc. and the two publishing companies are Spinback (BMI) and Tennessee Todd (ASCAP). McAlpin also manages the career of Jimmie Peters.

Red O'Donnell's Year in Review

(Continued from page 60)

went minor surgery at a St Pete, Fla. hospital to relieve a blocked nasal passage . . . It was officially announced that the new \$15 million Grand Ole Opry House at Opryland USA would open March 15 . . . **Johnny Rodriguez** signed for exclusive representation with William Morris Agency's Nashville boss **Bob Neal**.

The **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** was recording an lp at Woodland Studio . . . **Charlie Rich** signed to sing theme of the "Benji" movie . . . **Jean Shepard's** single of "At the Time" written by **Bill Anderson**, got an **RW** pick . . . Country-rock singer **Billy (Crash) Craddock** compared rock buffs to country fans: "Country fans will drive many miles to see a favorite performer, whereas rock fans will usually wait until the performer gets to their city."

Publisher **Jim Pelton** checked in with this funny: "A Grand Ole Opry entertainer was demoted because he needed a bath. Now he's with the Soap Opry." . . . Veteran talent manager-promoter-booker **X. Cosse** underwent acupuncture treatments in New York. "I've been needled before," he cracked, "but this is the first time I can recall paying in advance for it."

George Jones' Epic biggie was "Once You've Had the Best" . . . **Tommy Cash** returned from 27-day tour of Europe . . . **Bobby Goldsboro** appeared for umpteenth time on **J. Carson's** NBC Tonight Show . . . **George Jones & Tammy Wynette** paid \$500 thousand for a 20-room house in the suburbs of Nashville which **Faron Young** described in his standard irreverent way: "It makes **Webb Pierce's** mansion look like a sharecropper's place."

Joe Stampley's hometown of Springhill, La. named him "Man of the Year" . . . "Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott" was another hot disc happening for the **Statler Bros** . . . The shortage of fuel influenced **Red Simpson** to cut "If the World Ran Out of Diesel" for Capitol . . . **Charley Pride's** "Amazing Love" album was in the no. 1 spot.

Folks were talking about and listening to **Melba Montgomery's** Elektra single of "No Charge"—and ASCAP's **Charley Monk** wanted to know if it was a song about a lost credit card . . . The prestigious NY Times did a feature story about **Jerry Reed**—not as a guitarist so much as a sports fan . . . Baby-faced **Mickey Newbury** after many clean-shaven years, threw away his razor and began growing a beard.

Genial **Wally Cochran** checked out as RCA's artists relations service director to head up the new GRC label's Nashville office . . . Avid golfer **Chet B. Atkins** took up a new racquet; began taking tennis lessons.

MARCH

■ **Hank Thomson's** hot single was "The Older the Violin the Sweeter the Music" . . . **Charlie Rich's** "There Won't Be Anymore" (on RCA) was a popular vocal . . . **Webb Pierce** was singing "You Better Treat Her Right" . . . **Eddy Raven**, who sings like a canary, had a good thing going in "The Last of the Sunshine Cowboys."

The **Johnny Cash** show took on a new and younger look: daughters **Carlene Smith, Rosey Nix** and **Rosanne Cash** joined as singers . . . **Skeeter Davis** embarked on a two week tour of Africa . . . The final Grand Ole Opry show in the old Opry House (nee Ryman Auditorium) Friday night, March 15. The next night the new House opened at Opryland and President & Mrs. **Richard Nixon** were among the 4424 (the house's capacity) in attendance . . . The then president played the piano and joined **Roy Acuff** for a yo-yo spinning lesson—and Watergate seemed so far away and remote!

Nixon paid a compliment to singer **Jeannie Seely's** dress—or the way she wore it . . . **RW's** **Marie Ratliff** wrote in her Hot Line column: "Kyss deserves a kiss," and asked for expense money to fly to Colorado Springs and deliver it in person . . . **Dinah Shore** was recording a country session at Sound Shop Studio under **Buddy Killen's** direction.

David Rogers sang on his latest Atlantic release: "Loving You Has Changed My Life" . . . And **Narvel Felts'** for Cinnamon label spiced the airways with "When Your Good Love Was Mine" . . . **Conway Twitty's** "There's A Honky Tonk Angel" was getting play on pop stations . . . "Daddy What If" was a winner for **Bobby Bare**—and he rightly credited son **Bobby Jr.** for some vocal aid on the best-selling RCA single . . . **Hank Snow** was back in business with "Hello Love," his best in many moons . . . MGM artist **Pam Miller** (Mrs. **Steven Moore**)—daughter of songwriter **Eddie**—became the mother of an 8 lb. 8 oz. daughter . . . **Kris Kristofferson's** "Writer of Year" award at Nashville Songwriters Association's annual banquet was his third in the seven years the NSA has been presenting the honor.

Singer **Jimmy (Kid Cuz'n) West** sent his wife a box of chocolates from West Germany—Bonn Bonns, they were . . . The natives were

(Continued on page 64)

Thanks For Another Great Year
From Country's Top Writers

COMBINE MUSIC GROUP

ARTHUR ALEXANDER	DENNIS LINDE
MICHAEL BACON	BOB MORRISON
LEE CLAYTON	BOBBY OGDIN
RANDY CULLERS	ALAN RUSH
TERRY DEARMORE	MARTHA SHARP
DONNIE FRITTS	BILLY SWAN
ROB GALBRAITH	CINDY WALKER
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Davis & Nashville Brass: High Altitude Hitmakers

■ NASHVILLE — It's a far cry from yesteryear's hayseed haul in a rickety old pick-up truck, beats the devil out of a bus and completely eliminates the havoc of having to contend with airline schedules.

"Besides that," Danny Davis confesses of his privately owned plane, "I refuse to get in a damn bus. I had my fill of that as a kid traveling with big bands all across the country. What's more, my musicians don't deserve such treatment. If I put them through that, they could just as well stay in Nashville and make more money at recording sessions, without any bus bedragsment."

A Martin 404, Davis' brass bird proudly boasts the group's insignia along its side in blue 'n brass letters, while a trumpet tipped nose leaves little doubt that the airliner sveltely serves America's only big band of country music.

Originally outfitted as a commercial plane, the turbo-prop airship once seated 52 passengers. Today, the Nashville Brass

enjoy its room comfort with capacity for 18 aboard.

Operation costs for such luxury, Davis informs, "Runs right around \$215 an hour for fuel and \$10.50 per hour on oil. Last year we put in over 500 hours in the air, which means there was a total tab of over \$100 thousand in fuel and oil alone. That doesn't count upkeep or salaries for a fulltime pilot and co-pilot."

Painting his aircraft last November cost Davis the sizeable sum of \$15,000. And two new engines, which are expected to be installed early this coming year, will extract an estimated \$80,000 from the bandleader's bankroll.

Purchased approximately two years ago for a price of \$126 thousand, the golden sky ship is owned today by Davis, completely scott free. It belongs entirely to the Nashville Brass' bossman and serves as their sole means of transportation.

Traveling over 100,000 miles "up in the air" annually, Davis has little time left over to spend at his own Nashville office. As a result, he is compelled to complete much paperwork aboard the

(Continued on page 65)

Owens-Fair: On the Move

■ NASHVILLE — Owens-Fair and Associates Public Relations has enjoyed a busy second year of existence, marked by personnel and project expansion. Early in the year president-owner Earl E. Owens appointed entertainment journalist Bill Littleton director of media relations; Littleton has more recently become executive director of the firm as Owens moved his day-to-day activity to the Nova Agency. Connie Littleton serves as administrative assistant and Sharon Woods is receptionist.

Landmarks of the year for the PR firm included promotional assistance with the Roy Acuff "Back in the Country" album, a press copy campaign for Freddie Hart, the announcement of Nova and a Randy Matthews press party (engineered by Gus Barba, who left Owens-Fair in July to become promotional director of Brokun Records).

Geared to the many facets of the entertainment industry, Owens-Fair works closely with young unknown personalities and companies as well as with those firmly established, demonstrating that public exposure is a need common to the entire industry.

Chappell's Growth Breeds Big Hits

■ NASHVILLE — Chappell Music continued to be a major publisher in Nashville during 1974 under the direction of Henry Hurt, manager of the Nashville office and his assistant Brenda Holbert. This year marked the fifth year Chappell has continued its growth in Nashville.

Chappell's writers are Gayle Barnhill, Rory Bourke, Gene Dobbins, Jim Mundy, Darrell Statler, Joanne Thain and Johnny Wilson. Award winning songs during 1974 include "Sweet Magnolia Blossom," "Smile For Me," "Everybody Needs A Rainbow" and "Come Home."

Other chart records by Chappell writers include "You Never Say You Love Me Anymore," "Southern Lovin'," "Broadminded Man" and "Stop! If You Love Me."

Woodland Sound Studio Masters Solid Sounds

■ NASHVILLE — The past year has seen a number of areas of growth in the service Woodland Sound has provided its clients. The most significant result has been a continued increase in business.

Disc mastering under the direction of Bob Sowell, has shown a fantastic increase during the past year. Numerous times Woodland's masters were 30 percent of the country charts and appointments have necessarily been limited to one per day. Because of this work load, Sowell continually has a backlog.

Studio work has been consistent with BR Productions, ABC Records and GRT Records heading the list of clients.

Film scoring for Robert Altman's "Nashville" movie and sound tracks for several television movies have been recorded recently. Commercials such as Chevrolet Trucks (Ed Labunski producer) have been a significant part of the studio scene. Woodland's ability to score motion pictures by using film and video tape has been helpful to such clients as Landscape Films of Hollywood and ESKAY Films of New York. This month film scoring on a new movie, "Rancho Deluxe," will be done by Jimmy Buffett.

Woodland's staff consists of senior mixer Rex Collier and mixers Les Ladd, David McKinley, Tom Semmes and Pat Higdon. Mastering engineer Bob Sowell and chief engineer Jim Pugh complete the engineering staff. Secretaries Sam Huntsman and Patricia Dunnagan keep things moving under the watchful eye of president Glenn Snoddy.

GRT Is Country-Active

■ NASHVILLE—After six months, Dick Heard, general manager of the GRT Nashville operation, reports much activity. Ray Stevens and "The Streak" on the GRT distributed Barnaby label led the way for eight chart singles and four chart albums by Mel Street, Bobby G. Rice, Mundo Earwood, Harrison Jones, Bobby Lewis and Doyle Holly. Jan Howard, Mel Street, Stonewall Jackson and Bobby Lewis have chartbound singles at this printing according to Dave Mack, national country promotion director.

Other current releases include Jerry Kelly, Price Mitchell, Mundo Earwood, Doyle Holly, Ray Stevens and Layng Martine, Jr. Currently in the production stages are Carol Channing, Earl Conley and Earl Richards.

Material is submitted directly to the artists and their producers at 1310 16th Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

Faye Tritschler has been named administrative assistant to Nashville chief Heard.

Larry Jones, manager of the GRT pressing and plating plant reports growth and expansion with the addition of 7 inch 45 RPM automation equipment.

In a major expansion program, Chess/Janus acquired the assets of Metromedia Country last April. With proven success in the pop, soul, jazz and rock areas, Chess/Janus now aims to become a major force in country music.

Growth Is the Key at Stax

■ MEMPHIS—The best way to expand an existing enterprise is to move out with exciting new material, let people know it's there and constantly follow up. This is exactly what Stax country is doing to ensure its growing success.

Stax country in Memphis is a strong exponent of country music in an area that has always supported country, but (being only 200 miles from Nashville) has not produced much in the field. Reaching out with new artists, new material and new production, Stax country is busy building up to become firmly established as a viable force in the country music field.

The Enterprise label, on which Stax country artists record, has been the musical home since 1971 for O.B. McClinton, who gave Stax its first country hit with "Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You" and then followed that with other chart selections.

In May, 1974, Stax country beefed up its staff and operations in-house with the appointments of Bill Hickman and Carol Stevenson as coordinators of national country operations. Merlin Littlefield, another dedicated country fan and skilled representative, is Stax country's "man on the road."

At about the same time that Hickman and Stevenson joined,

Stax country began to expand its roster of artists, signing Cliff Cochran and the duo of Frank Hobson and Becky Durning, and releasing the single "It's You" by Connie Eaton.

O.B. McClinton returned with another hit single during the Summer—Ben Peters' "If You Loved Her That Way"—and his new album of the same title was recently released amid enthusiastic reviews and picks.

Newcomer Cliff Cochran had a hit with his first release (still on the country charts at this writing), "The Way I'm Needing You," written by longtime writer-producer-singer Hank Cochran. About this time, too, the initial outing by Frank Hobson/Becky Durning was released, a rendition of Red Lane's "A Truer Love You'll Never Find."

On top of this, Stax country discovered and recorded Paul Craft and his son: "It's Me Again, Margaret," on the Truth label (a division of Stax). Craft wrote the song, which deals humorously with the touchy subject of obscene phone calls, and justice is tempered with the mercy of comedy at its end. This is Paul's first record, but he's been around the country and folk music scene in the South for years as a member of the Settlers and the backup band for O.B. McClinton.

CAPITOL HAS THE COUNTRY COVERED



...with its new A&R Marketing team:

NASHVILLE

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and producer, Steve Stone

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Tennessee Ernie Ford
Johnny Gimble

Billy C. Graham
David Frizzell
Merle Haggard
Arleen Harden
Freddie Hart
Homer Joy
Dave Kirby
La Costa
La Wanda Lindsey
Anne Murray
R. C. Bannon

Buck Owens
Susan Raye
Paul Richey
Buford Rockefeller
Red Steagall
Jud Strunk
Margot Sunshine
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Charlie Walker
Andra Willis
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... and on Opryland Records,
under the guidance of Jimmy Bowen

Judy Bryte
Lola Jean Dillon
Jim & Jesse
J. David Sloan
J. Lee Webb



Distributed by
Capitol Records

Myrrh's 'Price' Is Right

■ WACO, TEXAS—Myrrh Records and Ray Price have formed a powerhouse combination planned to lead Myrrh further and further into the country field. Wanda Jackson, also signed to the Waco-based record company, further enhances the record company's foray into the burgeoning area of country music.

Ray Price

Price, a major star in the field for 25 years, will have his first album on Myrrh, "Like Old Times Again," released later this month. The title song single, just released, is gaining acceptance in both the pop and country fields.

Jarrell McCracken, president of Word, the parent company of Myrrh Records, is delighted with Price's signing and plans the most extensive promotion campaign on Price's new product since the inception of the label. Bill Hearn, director of a&r and promotion, will be working on "Priority Price" for the next six months.

Gospel Side

Price also has a gospel record coming out shortly showing both his and the record company's versatility. Price says, "The gaps are narrowing. You can't just sing country, just sing gospel, or just sing pop. That's what I've always

'Country Is' Hallnote Music

■ NASHVILLE—"Country Is," and that's what it's all about at Hallnote Music, according to Ms. Lyn Phillips, who recently assumed the position of general manager for the company. "The title of Tom T. Hall's current chart climber is the way we feel about it—just two words—'Country Is,'" she said.

Tom T.

Tom T. said it so simply for everyone—"Country is just what you make it, country is all in your heart."

Whether it is a "Pass Me By (If You're Only Passing Through)" by Hillman Hall, that set Johnny Rodriguez on the road to becoming the hottest young country artist today, or Johnny's own current "Dance With Me (Just One More Time)," it's country.

Hallnote Music is a young company, Lyn stated, that started with some very solid country songs and has grown with the added talents of Johnny Rodriguez, Allen Pace, Gary Sargeants, Rick Wayne and Barbara Lusk.

"There is a right time for all things," she said, "and we feel when the time is right to add new writers to the company roster, the expansion of Hallnote Music will be seen, felt and heard in every phase of the country music industry."

dreamed of, just being an everybody singer with no category, just a singer."

Wanda Jackson has been looking for the same "everybody's singer" designation Ray Price wants. Bolstering Myrrh's country-everything thrust, Wanda started out as a teenager singing in fairs, concerts and country festivals.

ABC Pact

Myrrh has recently signed a major distribution deal with ABC-Dunhill and with this new program will be building new artists and releasing new records with their roster of artists. Along with Price and Wanda Jackson, they include Gene Cotton, Danny Thomas, Barry McGuire and First Gear.

Columbia (Continued from page 18)

continued to be a select and important step in maintaining the Columbia Records level of excellence. Three new acts, David Allan Coe, Vicky Fletcher and Sandi Burnett, have each established a variety of notoriety since joining the label. Coe, "The Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy," drew heavy critical acclaim with his first album after writing Tanya Tucker's number one single, "Would You Lay With Me." "Touching Me, Touching You" gave Las Vegas star Vicky Fletcher immediate chart results. Sandi Burnett is currently creating international stardom for herself as the featured artist in the first country music tour to the Soviet Union and through several network television appearances. Billy Sherrill has also brought Don Potter, formerly of McGrath and Potter, to the Columbia label.

The Future Is Bright For Show Biz, Inc.

■ NASHVILLE — Show Biz happenings in 1974 have been highlighted by (1) the origination of a new nationwide television series, and (2) renewal and expansion of the Bobby Goldsboro show.

New Series

The new series, entitled "Pop! Goes the Country," is hosted by Ralph Emery and produced at the Opryland Studios on a handsome, massive set designed by Hollywood designer Rene Lagler. This 30-minute musical was origi-

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Epic

(Continued from page 54)

field of music for Monument artists including Kris Kristofferson, Barefoot Jerry, Larry Gatlin, Lloyd Green, Al Hirt, Robert Knight, Terri Lane, Jimmy Nall, Charlie McCoy, Boots Randolph and Billy Swan. Enterprise established Cliff Cochran on the country charts this year to join the label's O.B. McClinton in the established country ranks.

Epic's Nashville operations have begun developing a select and successful pop roster. Epic vice president of a&r Don Ellis has completed Allan Rich's first album, while Glen Spreen has completed Dave Loggins' first album following his hit, "Please Come To Boston."

The versatility of Columbia's country sound has reached every phase of popular demand. Producer Billy Sherrill brought Columbia superstar Andy Williams to Nashville to record for the first time. The Oak Ridge Boys have added new dimension to gospel music, while the Carter Family and the Chuck Wagon Gang have continued to provide the best of the more traditional sounds.

The Columbia marketing effort has continued to expand with the addition of Joe Casey and Mike Gusler to the position of country marketing managers. Casey is based in Columbia's Atlanta branch and Gusler is located at Columbia's Dallas branch. The two marketing specialists join national country promotion manager Gene Ferguson in a concentrated country marketing program.

Columbia Records' commitment to Nashville and to country music includes several areas of artist services. A complete graphics department provides personal attention to each artist's album cover design and visual promotion. The department is under the guidance of Bill Barnes and has been honored with numerous awards of excellence in album jacket design. This year Columbia became the first label to provide a complete in-house press and public information department under the direction of Dan Beck to maintain personal contact with the press throughout the nation and with the label's country roster.

Columbia Records in 1974 has continued to build a superstar roster through unprecedented expansion and a personal relationship with country music.



Columbia Records country artists, top row, from left: Johnny Cash, Barbara Fairchild, Sonny James and the Earl Scruggs Revue. Bottom row: Mac Davis, Barbara Mandrell, Lynn Anderson, Tanya Tucker and Roger Miller.

WATCH TALLY SCORE!

and listen to the winners...

**Ronnie Reno,
Bonnie Owens
and
Silver Creek**

Tally
MCA RECORDS

The newest label in the country. It's a sure bet!

Wm. Morris Agency Is Nashville-Active

■ NASHVILLE—1974 has seen the completion of the first full year of activity in Nashville by the William Morris Agency. In 1973, the Morris Agency acquired one of the top Nashville agencies, the Neal Agency, Ltd., and the resulting activity from the first year of combination has shown a tremendous growth, according to Bob Neal, manager of the Nashville office.

Doubled Growth

"The William Morris office in Nashville has actually more than doubled gross bookings and gross earnings for the past 12 months in comparison to the 12 preceding months," said Neal.

Neal pointed to the expanded careers of artists previously with the Neal Agency, notably Tom T. Hall, Johnny Rodriguez, Bobby Bare, Wanda Jackson and others. Also, the addition of such superstars as Charlie Rich, Jerry Reed, Jeannie C. Riley, Webb Pierce and the development of such new performers as Barbara Fairchild, Jim Stafford and Melba Montgomery have all contributed to the growth of the business.

"What is doubly remarkable," said Neal, "is the fact that two of our top stars, Sonny James and Connie Smith, have not accepted any bookings for this entire year.

Sonny will be back to full activity in 1975 and hopefully Miss Smith will be accepting some engagements at that time."

Among the top achievements reported by the expanded operation were bookings for Charlie Rich at the Hilton International in Las Vegas, a national Chevrolet television commercial campaign secured for Tom T. Hall, dramatic appearances on "Adam 12" for Johnny Rodriguez, multiple appearances for artists on The Dean Martin Show, The Mike Douglas Show and many other television variety shows. The office has also secured parts for Nashville based entertainers in motion picture productions the next 12 to 18 months.

Ranwood

(Continued from page 38)

uct by emphasizing in-store promotion and maintaining a fairly low industry profile. We intend to utilize this formula with our country roster and we are very aware of the importance of country music in the contemporary market."

Joining Welk at the convention will be executive vice president Chris Hamilton and promo manager Dotty Vance.

Epic (Continued from page 18)

brought the "Silver Fox" more gold awards. Rich's phenomenal appeal has brought similar results in the pop charts.

Tammy Wynette and George Jones, together, alone, and with daughter Tina, have remained constantly at the top of the charts. Tammy added to her long list of hits with "Another Lonely Song" and her current "Woman To Woman," and with her "Another Lonely Song" album. George Jones had one of his greatest years in a great career with two number one singles, "Once You've Had The Best" and "The Grand Tour." George also teamed with daughter Tina for the hit single "The Telephone Call."

Johnny Paycheck, Jody Miller, Bob Luman, David Houston and Jack and Misty continued to consistently deliver hit records.

Sherrill, Bledsoe

The Epic Records' year has been directed by vice president of a&r Billy Sherrill and vice president of Nashville operations Ron Bledsoe. Sherrill has been actively involved in the production of Charlie Rich, Tammy Wynette, George Jones and Johnny Paycheck. Norro Wilson is currently producing David Houston and Jody Miller, and Glenn Sutton produces Bob Luman for the label.

Five new acts have been signed to Epic Records this year to maintain Epic's philosophy of continuing growth. Billy Sherrill has brought 13-year old Brenda Smith to the label. Veteran musician/producer Tommy Allsup is currently producing the instrumental group Nashville and dobro virtu-

oso Josh Graves. The young western swing band Asleep at the Wheel has recorded their first album for Epic under the direction of Norro Wilson. Charlie Rich has also brought his first production signee David Wills to the label.

Marketing Growth

The Epic Records country marketing success has brought about further expansion in country marketing staff. Joe Casey of the CBS Records' Atlanta branch and Mike Gusler in the Dallas branch have been promoted to the position of country marketing managers. The two specialists have begun developing a concentrated promotional effort in conjunction with the Epic national country promotion offices in Nashville. Additionally, Dan Beck has been named manager, press and public information, country, to provide a personal publicity effort for the Epic country artist roster. These new positions are unprecedented moves in providing Epic Records with the most sophisticated marketing department in country music.

The sales appeal of Epic country albums has received a special touch from country music's first in-house graphic design department. Under the direction of Bill Barnes, country album jackets are designed with a personal interest in the artist and in quality artwork.

Epic Records' country marketing includes a close association with Monument Records and Enterprise Records, both Columbia Custom labels. Major success has been attained in virtually every

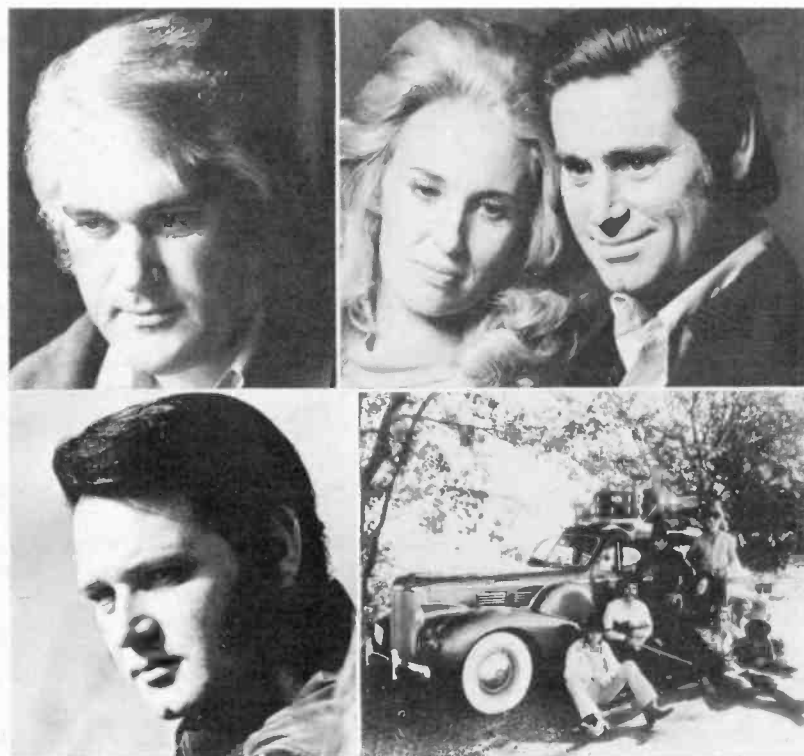
(Continued on page 56)

PEER-SOUTHERN ORGANIZATION

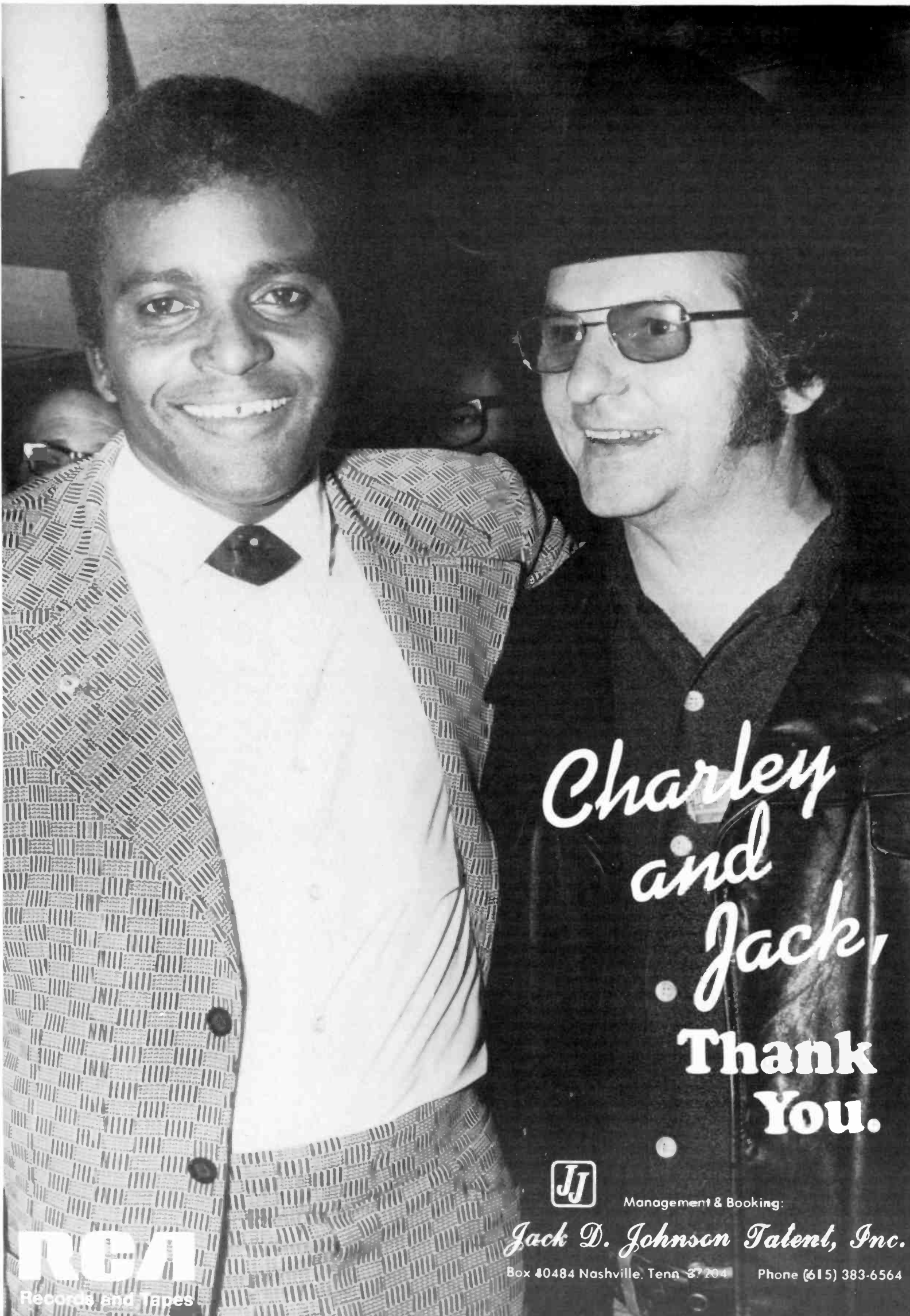
LINKS THE WORLD WITH COUNTRY MUSIC

OCTOBER IS
COUNTRY
MUSIC
MONTH

1511 SIGLER STREET, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (615) 244-6200



Shown here (top row to bottom, from left), four strongholds in Epic Records' country cavalcade: Charlie Rich, Tammy Wynette & George Jones, and David Houston, along with a newly-signed youthful western swing band, Asleep at the Wheel.



*Charley
and
Jack,*
**Thank
You.**

RCA
Records and Tapes



Management & Booking:

Jack D. Johnson Talent, Inc.

Box 40484 Nashville, Tenn. 37204 Phone (615) 383-6564

Acuff-Rose (Continued from page 30)

writer contracts, joining the Acuff-Rose roster of composers.

It was during 1974 that Moe Bandy introduced "I Just Started Hating Cheatin' Songs Today" to the world and also signed to write country songs exclusively for Acuff-Rose.

Expansion continued to Acuff-Rose in October, Country Music Month, with the acquisition of Neely's Bend Music owned by Connie Smith. Connie also brought her songwriting talents exclusively to Acuff-Rose.

Latin flavor was added to the companies with the purchase of Valpraiso Music from the promising young Spanish singer-writer, Gil Veda, who joined the Acuff-Rose staff of exclusive writers.

In still another innovative move, Richard H. Frank, Jr., a Nashville attorney long identified with the music business through his private practice, was added to the Acuff-Rose management team on a part-time basis.

Global Growth

Abroad, the international publishing network of Acuff-Rose owned and operated companies in England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Denmark and S. Africa played a leading part in the international growth of country music. Miss Christina Kozak, a young, experienced Austrian music executive, was added to the staff of Acuff-Rose in Germany with her offices in Hamburg, while Ron Randall vigorously promoted the music of Acuff-Rose and its licensees not only in the United Kingdom, but also supervised promotion and administrative activities of the Acuff-Rose International family across Europe. At the invitation of the Tokyo Broadcasting System and the Tokyo Music Festival, Acuff-Rose president Wesley Rose, together with the board of directors of the Country Music Association, for which he

serves as president, attended the Tokyo Music Festival as special guests and spread the gospel of country music in Japan.

Last year, Acuff-Rose added another to its long catalogue of "firsts" by winning, with writer Mickey Newbury, the first grand prize of the first Tokyo Music Festival. "International firsts" continued in 1974 when the Acuff-Rose European affiliates arranged and coordinated the precedent-breaking tour of George Hamilton IV to Russia and Czechoslovakia bringing American country music behind the Iron Curtain.

RCA (Continued from page 18)

Family Singin' in the Kitchen," in which everyone gets into his act.

In 1974, RCA has been very successful on the Country Ip charts, also. This, of course, helped in establishing the great sales year they've had so far. RCA's spring "Country Cookin'" promotion and sales campaign can be credited with much of the sales success so far. Because of its success, RCA launched into another country promotion campaign on September 15. It's called "Get That Country Feelin'," and will be centered around their September and October Ip releases plus 55 best-selling country catalogue albums. In this campaign, TV buys and print advertising will play a larger part than in any previous campaign. "Another one of the main reasons for our success," cites Bradley, "is the faith, support and co-operation that RCA president Kenneth Glancy and his staff have given us. You don't really attribute it to any one person, because it's

Mega (Continued from page 32)

own Florida-based consulting firm as marketing and merchandising consultant. He stabilized and strengthened the company's distribution through a long term agreement with PIP Records, a division of Pickwick International, Inc.

Marilyn Sellars' current single, "One Day At A Time," high on the country charts, has recently crossed over into pop as well.

Sammi Smith, who garnered gold with Kris Kristofferson's "Help Me Make It Thru The Night" and recently charted with "The Rainbow In Daddy's Eyes"

and "Never Been To Spain," is already on the country charts with her recently released single, "Long Black Veil." Her brand new album is "Sammi Smith's Greatest Hits."

Other Mega artists are Patsy Sleddd, Don Ho, Billy Mize, Jerry Jaye and Roy Head, and there is a single of the title tune from the movie "Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry" by Zella Lehr. Jim Malloy has joined the Mega fold as an independent producer, and Peggy Beard now heads a&r administration for the label's Nashville operation.

been a complete team effort by everyone."

RCA Records had another milestone in 1974, when Hank Snow signed another recording contract in May, for an additional 13 years. The contract made Hank Snow the only artist ever to be signed with the same company for over 50 years.

In-House Producers

Currently RCA has five producers: Ray Pennington, Roy Dea, Bob Ferguson, Jerry Bradley and Chet Atkins. Each producer has only seven or eight acts, giving each producer the chance to work closer with each act.

Also within 1974, RCA Nashville has added Joe Galante as manager of Nashville administration to direct and coordinate all Nashville operating functions. Also added to the Nashville staff was Paul Randall, who was promoted from an RCA regional promotion man in the East to manager, artist and press relations.

RCA Nashville now employs 38

including all office personnel and the engineering staff and RCA's country promotion department, headed up by national promotion director Elroy Kahanek and national country sales manager Larry Gallagher.

To keep RCA up to date, Jerry Bradley recognized the need to "do something" to make the RCA studios more inviting, comfortable and efficient. So, RCA remodeled Studio A and Studio B in 1974. Both studios have been refurbished to give "that home" or "living room" feeling. New equipment has also been added. Although they've just recently been completed, already the studios have become extremely popular.

RCA is doing quadrasonic mix on most of its new recordings. The Nashville studios have a quadrasonic lacquer cutter and all mastering is done for RCA country product as well as the great bulk of RCA's foreign product.

BMI

(Continued from page 40)
appointment to head the BMI Nashville operation in 1955. Three years later, a move was made to quarters in the L & C Tower. By 1964, BMI had its own building.

As a measure of its important service to country music, the BMI building in Music City has been tripled in size, covering over 11,500 square feet of space. The addition was a necessity, Mrs. Preston insists, "to accommodate the constantly increasing number of affiliated writers and publishers in the southern portion of the United States. At present, we represent almost 14,000 writers and publishers in 15 states."



RCA's roster of super country talent includes both some of the most long-standing acts with the label and a bevy of bright new futures. Pictured here (top row, from left): guitar legend Chet Atkins; Sledge, Mississippi's own Charley Pride; that "Ramblin' Man" Waylon Jennings; Porter Wagoner; "Diamond" Dolly Parton and the "Country Sunshine" gal Dottie West. Also shown (bottom row, from left): the label's artist seniority leader still going strong, Hank Snow; the Nashville Brassman Danny Davis; Dickey Lee; Jerry Reed, Nat Stuckey and the label's most successful new acquisition of the last year, Ronnie Milsap.



WELCOME TO



UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS

COUNTRY

**STEVE BEST · CALLICO · JAN CRUTCHFIELD · CRYSTAL GAYLE
BOBBY GOLDSBORO · NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND · BOBBY HARDIN
TIM HOLIDAY · CHARLIE LOUVIN · DEL REEVES · JACK RENO
SUNDAY SHARPE · JEAN SHEPARD · BILLIE JO SPEARS
SLIM WHITMAN · BOB WILLS & THE TEXAS PLAYBOYS**

Red O'Donnell's Year in Review

(Continued from page 48)

JANUARY

■ A new year and a new story—or three:

Conny Van Dyke—late to sign with Dot diskery—got the break of good breaks. She was selected to play opposite Burt Reynolds in a 20th Century-Fox movie, "W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings," filmed in Nashville and vicinity.

The story concerned a country music band—with which Conny was the vocalist—and its struggle to get an appearance on the Grand Ole Opry. It is tentatively skedded for release later this year. **Jerry Reed** was cast for a major role—leader of the Dancekings—and wrote some original tunes for the picture.

Songwriter-publisher **Ray Baker** was named producer for Columbia artist **Connie Smith** . . . **Barbi Benton**, slightly sophisticated young lady of the "Hee Haw" cast, signed with Playboy Records as a country singer. "Certainly I am a country singer," said California resident Barbi, gal-pal and almost constant companion of Playboy exec **Hugh Hefner**.

Danny Davis, the Irish laddie from Boston, toured England with his **Nashville Brass** for the first time . . . As the new year began, **Roy Clark's** "Somewhere Between Love and Tomorrow" (on Dot) was no. 1 on **RW's** country singles chart . . . **Roy Orbison** signed to host and perform for an NBC-TV "Midnight Special" . . . **Roy Clark** and **Diana Trask** were starring at the Frontier Hotel in Vegas . . . **Tanya Tucker's** "Would You Lay With Me in a Field of Stone" was considered by some folks as slightly adult—or maybe X-rated—for a teenage singer, but it was selling and getting plenty of action and reaction.

Opryland Records signed the Bluegrass duo of **Jim & Jesse McReynolds** and songstress **Judy Bryte** . . . **Kitty Wells** surprised quite a few country diehards and die-softs by shifting from MCA—after many, many years—to the Macon, Ga.-based Capricorn label.

The sad news this month was the unexpected death of **Tex Ritter**; heart attack! . . . **Merle Haggard** guest-starred in a dramatic role on ABC-TV's "Doc Elliott" series . . . **Johnny Cash** was cast as a wife-killer on an NBC-TV "Colombo."

Mike Shepard was named national promotion and sales director of Warner Bros. country product . . . Roy Clark and his family—minus non-performer wife **Barbara**—visited **Flip Wilson's** TVer.

Conway Twitty's "There's A Honky Tonk Angel" got a **RW** pick . . . **Donna Fargo** described her songs as "feelings set to music." . . . **Dolly Parton's** RCA single, "Jolene," on the charts for a dozen weeks, was no. 1 . . . **Mel Street** sang (for Metromedia Country) that he was "Lovin' On Borrowed Time."

Chet Atkins' from-the-heart tribute to Tex Ritter: "Thinking of all the good he's done, and thinking of the great man he was, and realizing how much we all loved him, if anybody deserved to go easy, Tex did."

Leon (Hank Wilson) Russell taped an hour TV special at House of Cash studio . . . Total attendance at WSM's Grand Ole Opry in 1973 for 171 shows was 464,416, or 24,045 more than the 440,371 who saw 165 shows in 1972 . . . It'll be much higher this year, now that the Opry is in its new Opry House at Opryland.

Hank Snow's "Hello Love" hit the market and almost as quickly as I wrote this began to become a hit . . . **Charlie Rich's** "Behind Closed Doors" album, after 39 weeks on the charts, was still no. 1 . . . Listeners were telling deejays that **Barbara Fairchild's** "Baby Doll" was hit material. It was.

Joe Stampley's single of "I'm Still Loving You" was in the pop music charts . . . **Jim Halsey's** talent agency in Tulsa signed **Freddy Weller** to an exclusive agreement . . . **Jerry Reed** wrote and recorded a song about the energy crisis (remember that?) called "Crude Oil Blues." . . . It was January, 1974, but **Charlie McCoy** was in Monument studio cutting a Christmas album.

George Jones & Tammy Wynette put writer **Bobby Braddock's** "We're Not the Jet Set" on wax and it took off rapidly in the direction of popularity.

Talent agent-manager **Don Light** and publisher **Charley (Chuck) Neese** bought the Moss-Rose Music catalogue, originally established and owned by the late **Hubie Long**.

Charlie Rich was out with a new one—on RCA—titled "There Won't Be Anymore," recorded several years ago when Charlie was striving for hits on that label.

Bluegrass bossman **Mac Wiseman** was recovering from surgery performed in a Richmond, Va. hospital . . . Tammy Wynette underwent bladder surgery in Nashville—her fifth operation since April, 1974. "I've spent almost as much time in hospitals as I have at personal

(Continued on page 60)

Shorty Lavender Agency: Long on Talent

■ NASHVILLE — The Shorty Lavender Talent Agency has made significant changes over the past year, resulting in a significant amount of growth for the agency. "We have added several new artists to our roster this year, as well as expanded our offices, added new staff members and a public relations department within the offices to improve existing services to our artists," said Shorty Lavender, president of the Shorty Lavender Talent Agency.

Lavender books some of Nashville's top acts, including George Jones and Tammy Wynette, Don Adams, Arleen Harden, David Houston, Ferlin Husky, Wayne Kemp, O.B. McClinton, Harold Morrison, Johnny Paycheck, Jeanne Pruett, Paul Richey, Jeri Ross, Patsy Sledd, Joe Stampley and Shoji Tabuchi.

New to the Lavender Agency roster this year are Jim Glaser, Doyle Holly, Mary Kay James, Stella Parton, Bill Phillips, Dianne

Sherrill and Kenny Vernon.

"We stress not only booking an artist, but helping to build his or her career, and try to provide whatever guidance we can to help our artists," John McMeen, vice president said.

The Lavender Agency has moved into two additional offices in their relatively new location in the Capitol Building at 806 16th Ave., South, to allow room for new staff members agents Don Fowler and Don Helms.

Claudette Duncan has also been added to the staff, as personal promotions director for George Jones and Tammy Wynette, as well as coordinating the public relations department. Theresa Everett serves as bookkeeper and secretary, and Pat Hood acts as contract secretary.

Top Billing

(Continued from page 34)

Perennial favorite Porter Wagoner has named Barbara Lea as the latest addition to his road show and television series, thus ending an intensive search for a new female singing partner. Top Billing continues to represent Wagoner as well as Ms. Lea.

Top Billing's acts did well on the nightclub circuit. Jacky Ward got rave reviews at Las Vegas' Golden Nugget and was booked for a return engagement. Crystal Gayle showcased her talents at O'Lunney's in New York City.

Jerry Clower, Top Billing's humorist - in - residence, was named the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry.

On the homefront, Top Billing's platform division continued to be active throughout 1974. Under the direction of Barbara Farnsworth, the speakers bureau continued to flourish with top notch speakers, including the Duke of Paducah, the latest addition to the platform division and country music division.

New faces continued to predominate, as TBI's publicity bureau began full time operation with publicity director Stacy Harris at the helm. She will be working closely with veteran Top Billing agent Andrea Smith, and Dolores Smiley, the company's vice president and general manager. Tandy Rice is the president of Top Billing. Rounding out the talent agency's staff are newcomers Kay Bumbalough, office manager, and Barbara Scheibert, bookkeeper/secretary.

The byword for 1974 has been growth. Top Billing has outgrown its current complex of offices on Richard Jones Road, and is slated to move into newer headquarters on Hillsboro Road in 1975.

Pi-Gem, Chess Music See an Active Year

■ NASHVILLE—"1974 has been a year of growth for Pi-Gem Music, Inc., (BMI) and Chess Music, Inc., (ASCAP)," according to Tom Collins, executive vice-president. Both companies have added exclusive songwriters as well as staff members this past year.

Artists who recorded Pi-Gem and Chess Music, Inc. material this past year include Buck Owens, O. B. McClinton, Conway Twitty, Johnny Russell, Waylon Jennings, Karen Wheeler, Sue Richards, Johnny Duncan, Mel Street, Jack Green, Johnny Bush, Hank Thompson, Pat Daisy, Charley Pride, Ronnie Milsap, Roy Clark, Dickey Lee, Gladys Knight and the Pips and Diahann Carroll.

Making up the list of exclusive songwriters in Pi-Gem and Chess Music, Inc. are Bobby P. Barker, Johnny Koonse, Jim Lunsford, Ronnie Milsap, Geoffrey Morgan, Bud Reneau, Kent Robbins and John Schweers.

A new addition to the Pi-Gem and Chess staff is David Conrad. Conrad has been made the assistant general manager and will be working in the exploitation of both catalogues. Other members of the publishing team are administrative assistant and Beverly Tibbs, promotion director.

In foreign publishing, Pi-Gem Music International has been established throughout the world. Other Nashville publishing companies are now being represented by Pi-Gem Music International in foreign publishing.

When Country music lands on the moon, we'll be there.

Someday, the world of Country music may reach beyond our planet. You'll be pickin' and singin' in the craters, looking back at Mother Earth and Nashville, Tennessee.

At BMI we've always envisioned a majestic future for Country music. Because we've been totally involved and impressed by its past.

In 1940, when Broadcast Music Incorporated was founded, we saw that our country's native music was ridiculed or ignored by the

establishment. We began our fight, opening up our first Nashville office in a garage.

We made it our job to see that all Country writers and publishers had a way to collect royalties and protect the performance rights on their songs.

Today we are the world's largest performing rights organization, and have earned our place on Music Row.

In thirty four years, Country music and BMI have come a long way. But there are lightyears left to go.



BMI

BROADCAST MUSIC INCORPORATED

Red O'Donnell's Year in Review

(Continued from page 36)

Ellen Wood . . . **Shel Silverstein** wrote it, **Loretta Lynn** recorded it . . . It's no "One's On the Way," but "Hey, Loretta" is doing all right on the charts and the sales racks.

Marty Robbins signed to become spokesman for Nitro 9, a new custom line of automotive products . . . **Bob O'Donnell** signed recording-writing contract with **Fred Carter Jr.'s** Nugget Records . . . If he makes it big, I'll claim kin; otherwise, "Bob O'Donnell, who?" . . . **Jerry Lee Lewis** made his dramatic debut on an episode of NBC-TV's "Police Story" series . . . Must have required some quick study. Jerry Lee knows nothing whatsoever about police?

Dottie West's "Country Sunshine" was reminiscent of a sody pop commercial—but it was the pause that refreshed . . . (I don't understand that, either).

Tragedy struck! **Stringbean (Dave Akeman)** and wife **Estelle** were killed by thieves whom they surprised robbing their home as they returned from the Grand Ole Opry . . . String was shot to death in his house; wife Estelle in the yard.

Jerry Lee Lewis Jr. was killed in an automobile accident near Hernando, Miss. The 19-year-old's father has certainly had his share of bad luck along with the good . . . CMA's new officers elected included: chairman of board **Joe Talbot**; president **Wes Rose**; secretary **Frank Mancini**; and treasurer **Bob (RW) Austin** . . . (Keep an eye on the till, Roberto!) . . . **Faron Young** as the solo entertainer at CMA's Hall of Fame membership party—and got the usual Faron (The Baron) type of standing O.

Dot's **Tommy Overstreet** was singing about "I'll Never Break These Chains" . . . A prison song? nope, a love ballad.

DECEMBER

■ **Cajun Doug Kershaw** appeared on NBC-TV's "Midnight Special" . . . A daughter (their second) arrived for singer **Dickey Lee** & wife **Linda** . . . **Pahokee, Fla.** sponsored a "Mel Tillis Day" for its favorite son . . . **Tammy Wynette** was performing with a brace on her back—the result of a slipped disc . . . **Donna Fargo** recorded "You Were Always There" in German for release in West Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich et al for Dot . . . Singer **Bonnie Owens (Mrs. Merle Haggard)** underwent surgery for removal of a non-malignant abdominal tumor.

Veteran guitarist-composer **Merle Travis** celebrated birthday at his California home . . . **George Morgan** was back in the charts with a single of "Red Roses from the Blue Side of Town" . . . **Del Reeves** cut a live album for UA during a performance at the Palamino Club in L.A. . . . **Don Romeo** joined **Buddy Lee Attractions** as vice president in charge of the company's Omaha, Neb. office . . . ASCAP's resident clown **Charlie Monk** wondered out loud why **Loretta Lynn** didn't name her twin daughters Amondo Lynn and Vio Lynn?

The energy crisis was the no. 1 topic and **Dick Feller** said: "I'm going to do my part. I'm selling my electric guitar" . . . Where is **Frances Williams Preston**, the BMI leading lady? She just signed **Kenny O'Dell** to a contract renewal . . . **Bobby Bare Sr. & Jr.** recorded "Daddy, What If" and it became the darling of the airways . . . Monument artist **Boots Randolph** played his Yakety Sax at the halftime entertainment of the annual "Gator Bowl" game (Tennessee & Texas Tech were the football teams involved).

It seemed that all the country folks were in love with **Tom T. Hall's** Mercury cut of "I Love" . . . **Marty Robbins** hosted an NBC-TV "Midnight Special" that included a raft of country music artists as guest performers . . . **Johnny Rodriguez** had done it again, this time with "That's the Way Love Goes" . . . **Tammy Wynette's** "Another Lonely Song" was another lovely hit for **Mrs. George Jones**.

Coming on strong and destined to get stronger was **Charlie Rich** with an Epic release of "The Most Beautiful Girl"—a most beautiful song.

Johnny and June Carter Cash didn't send out Christmas greetings. They forgot to order their usual engraved cards. Busy, busy, busy. Oh well, maybe this Yule?

Dolly Parton came down with a very irritating sore throat and all the boys on the block were hoping it didn't settle in her chest . . . **Ben Smathers & the Stoney Mountain Cloggers** filmed a pilot for a projected syndicated TV series . . . What happened, Benjamin? . . . **Jimmy Gilmer** was named general manager of the Nashville office of United Artists Records Music Publishing Group . . . **Marie Osmond** appeared at the Grand Ole Opry. A first!

Jethro Burns' annual New Year's predictions for **Record World** included: "Dolly Parton will flip her wig and lose 20 pounds" . . . **Barbara Mandrell's** "Midnight Oil" will be moved up to '9:30 Oil' to save fuel, . . . and **Dottie West** will keep on singing "Country Sunshine" but "Country Moonshine" will get all the action" . . . And most of the folks around here enjoyed a Merry Christmas with the usual office parties.

(Continued on page 50)

Progress Is a Passion at Jim Reeves Ent.

■ NASHVILLE — Progress has been the key word for Jim Reeves Enterprises during this year, beginning with the acquisition of Harry Jenkins, formerly with RCA, New York, as vice president and general manager of Jim Reeves Enterprises and its affiliate companies. These include the recording label, Shannon Records, and the publishing firms of Acclaim Music, Inc., Tuckahoe Music, Inc. and Open Road Music, Inc., all of which are BMI firms, and Ma-Ree Music, Inc. (ASCAP).

Shannon Records began the year successfully with a top 10 recording by the label's duet, Bud Logan and Wilma Burgess, entitled "Wake Me Into Love," as well as an lp by the same title. Demand was so great that their current single, "The Best Day Of The Rest Of Our Love," had to be pulled from the album also. Both singles were co-written by Royce Porter. Royce and the co-writer of "The Best Day," Bucky Jones, recently signed as writers for Ma-Ree Music, Inc., with their first release since signing being the current Wilma Burgess single "Love Is Here," which is also co-published by their ASCAP firm of Porter-Jones and Ma-Ree Music, Inc. Jim Reeves Enterprises will be handling the administrative duties for Porter-Jones.

Heightened Activity

In June of this year, Jim Reeves Enterprises also took over the administrative duties of two more publishing firms, Willow Fair (BMI) and Willow Green (ASCAP), which are co-owned by William Fair, III and Harlan Sanders. Harlan is one of the writers of the current Johnny Bush single, "I

Can Feel Him Touching You (All Over Me)." Harlan also just recently signed a recording contract with Shannon Records and will have a release out very soon.

Also out with a new release is Shannon's Guy Hardin. This one is the oldie by Charlie Rich, "Mohair Sam," coupled with the Jim Reeves standard of "Welcome To My World."

Another new artist with Shannon is Canada's Nancy Ryan. She will be going into the studios for her first session in the very near future. Another new addition to the Jim Reeves Enterprises staff this year is Dan Wilson, filling the duties of professional manager of the multi-publishing companies. Tuckahoe Music acquired a new writer this year by the name of Glen Goza. George Kent will go into the studios soon to record a follow up to his Porter-Jones recording of "Take My Life And Shape It" which did so well for him. Shannon also released an lp on George this year called "George Kent."

Mary Reeves Davis and husband Terry have spent a very busy year dividing their time between their cattle ranch and the music industry. Mary again attended the Annual Wembley Pool Festival of Music in London and this year she and the other CMA board of directors had their meeting in Japan. She has been interviewed by many journalists, radio personalities from various parts of the country and co-hosted the Billy Cole Radio Show from WHO in Des Moines, Iowa in August of this year. This was a special show commemorating the 10th anniversary of the death of Jim Reeves.

Capricorn (Continued from page 32)

initial session came her first Capricorn single, "Forever Young," written by Bob Dylan and produced by Johnny Sandlin and Paul Hornsby. A new single titled "Too Much Love Between Us" has just been shipped and Miss Wells' debut Capricorn album is scheduled for release in November.

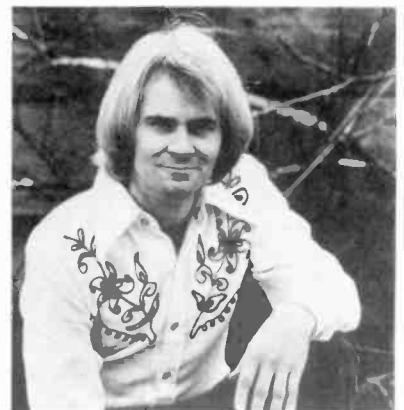
Johnny Darell has already had a string of country hits, spanning the last six years. Among his pre-

vious hits were such songs as "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town," "Green, Green Grass of Home" and "Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp." An album is currently in the works being produced by veteran country producer Bob Montgomery. Johnny's debut single, "Orange Blossom Special," has already been released.

(Continued on page 76)



Kitty Wells



Kenny O'Dell

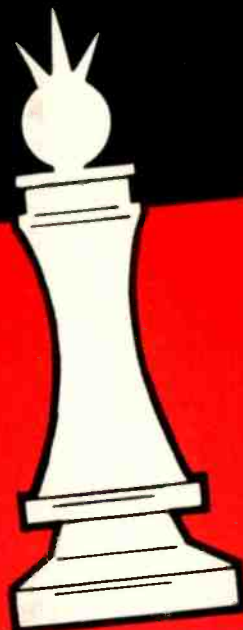
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Rex Allen & The Men
Of The West
Ernie Ashworth
Johnny Bernard/
Julie Jones Show
Jack Blanchard &
Misty Morgan
Wilma Burgess

Randy & Sandy Burnett
Carl & Pearl Butler
Bill Carlisle
Tommy Cash & The Tomcats
The Country Cavaleers
Billy Thunderkloud &
The Chieftones
Alice Creech

Mike Curb Congregation
Dick Curless Show
Pat Daisy
Gov. Jimmy Davis &
Anna Gordon Davis
Skeeter Davis Show
Penny DeHaven
Johnny Dot Show
Kent Fox

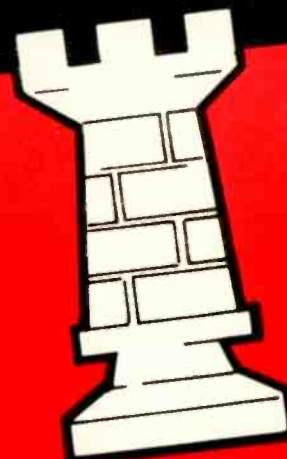
Lefty Frizzell
Lois Frizzell
Don Gibson
Martha Hall & The Hallmarks
Clay Hart
The Musical Harts
The Imperials
Stonewall Jackson &
The Minutemen



Lois Johnson/Don Silvers Show
Kelly
Claude King Show
Faye LaBeau
La Costa
Bobbi Martin
Darrell McCall Show
Sam & Kirk McGee



Shirl Milete
George Morgan
w/Little Roy Wiggins
Jim Mundy
Danny Davis &
The Nashville Brass
Gary S. Paxton
Stu Phillips & The Balladeers
Marvin Rainwater
Bobby G. Rice



Tommy Roe & Trio
Pam & Alan Ross
Bobbie Roy
Bob Sanders
Marilyn Sellars Show
Kenny Serratt
Carl Smith
Red Sovine



Arnett Stratton &
The Knights Out
Tanya Tucker Show
George Wallace, Jr.
Eric Weissberg & Deliverance
Buck White &
The Down Home Show
Hank Williams Jr. Show
Al "Porky" Witherow Show
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Hickory Brings Home the Bacon

■ NASHVILLE — Development and growth have been the watchwords at Hickory Records in 1974. The United States distribution venture formed with MGM Records during 1973 blossomed through the Phonodisc Organization with its tightly coordinated marketing system.

The Year Past

It was during 1974 that Don Gibson continued his growing crescendo of hit following hit with "Snap Your Fingers," "One Day at a Time" and "Bring Back Your Love to Me," while joining with Sue Thompson of "Norman" fame in the popular chart duet "Good Old Fashion Love." Roy Acuff reappeared on the charts and airways with "Back in the Country" and "Old Time Sunshine Song," while Roy Acuff, Jr. gave a new young and contemporary sound to "California Lady." Glenn Barber scored with "Daddy No. 2" and "You Only Live Once in a While."

Carl Smith

The Hickory roster of stars grew with the signing as exclusive artist of Carl Smith, whose initial Hickory release, "Dreaming Again," drew immediate attention and acclaim. Smith joins his talents with producer-president Wesley Rose in a combination which promises new excitement

to every lover of country music.

Singer "Whitey" Shafer is another addition to the Hickory label. The Shafer release, "My House Is Your Honky Tonk," has established Whitey as an artist-writer of rare talent.

The Hickory Records promotion staff, headed by record business veteran Joe Lucas, has been joined by talented former radio men and musicians Don Powell and Dick Kiser, who devote their effort, with veterans Mel Foree and Roy Acuff, Jr., to letting the world know that Hickory Records is country music.

The Nova Agency: All for the Artist

■ NASHVILLE—The Nova Agency was started this year by Chuck Glaser, formerly a member of the award winning trio, Tompall and the Glaser Brothers. In the short time Nova has been in existence they have become an important name in the field of artist representation. Their adaptability and determination have given each artist the individual representation which has been unavailable in the past.

Supporting Glaser's efforts in the agency are Brooke Faragher, administrative assistant; Earl Owens, director; Scott Faragher, account executive; and Lois Newman, secretary.

Al Gallico Co's.: Publishing Powerhouses

■ NASHVILLE—When you talk of premier publishers in Nashville, you must surely name Al Gallico at the top of the list. Gallico continues not only to publish successful songs every year from his strong stable of writers, but he picks up new, young writers for the future.

Gallico's companies include Algee, Al Gallico, Altam, Roadmaster, Easy Listening, Mainspring, Flagship, Starship, Hi Morning and Mainstay. All are BMI except Easy Listening and Mainspring which are ASCAP.

Writers

Writing for Gallico are Norro Wilson, George Richey, Carmol Taylor, Steve Davis, Mark Sherrill, Billy Sherrill, Agnes Wilson and Jenny Russell, with new writer Dave Hall added this year.

Gallico has the publishing rights in the U.S. for two of the biggest country songs last year—"Let Me Be There" and "If You Love Me, Let Me Know," both by Olivia Newton-John.

Charlie Rich Tunes

Other hits published by Gallico are the Charlie Rich songs "I Love My Friend," "Most Beautiful Girl" and "Very Special Love Song," as well as "Take Me Home To Somewhere," "The Grand Tour," "Another Lonely Song," "I Love You, I Love You," "I'm Still Loving You," "Lean It All On Me," "We're Gonna Hold On," "Sing About Love," "Perfect Strangers," "Can't You Feel It," "The Door" and "Get On My Love Train."

'A Hit A Week'

The year was so good for Al Gallico that there wasn't a week that went by without one of the songs he published on the charts—and he plans to keep that streak going.

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 DETROIT CITY • FALLEN ANGEL • GRIN AND BEAR IT • HEART BE CAREFUL • HEART OVER MIND • HELLO OUT THERE • HON
 ARE YOU SINCERE • ACCORDING TO MY HEART • A LITTLE HEARTACHE • AMIGO'S GUITAR • ARE YOU SINCERE • A THOUSAND M
 BEFORE I MET YOU • HONKY TONK SONG • HOPING THAT YOU'RE HOPING • HOW DO YOU TALK TO A BABY • I AIN'T NEVER • I D
 DADDY SANG BASS • I THANK MY LUCKY STARS • I'M A ONE WOMAN MAN • I'M TIRED • IT'S BEEN SO LONG • I'VE GOT A NEW HE
 THE LONG BLACK VEIL • KISSES DON'T LIE • LEAVIN' ON YOUR MIND • LET FORGIVENESS IN • LITTLE BOY SAD • LITTLE ROSA
 A THOUSAND MILES AGO • THOSE WONDERFUL YEARS • UNLOVED, UNWANTED • WATERLOO • WHY, WHY • YES I KNOW WHY
 RUBY, DON'T TAKE YOUR LOVE TO TOWN • TEN THOUSAND DRUMS • THE COMEBACK • THE LONG BLACK VEIL • TRUE LOVE IS GRE
 ACCORDING TO MY HEART • A LITTLE HEARTACHE • AMIGO'S GUITAR • ARE YOU SINCERE • A THOUSAND MILES AGO • BEFORE I
 MET YOU • B.J. THE D.J. • BURNING MEMORIES • CRYING OVER YOU • CRAZY WILD DESIRE • DADDY SANG BASS • DETROIT CITY
 • EMOTIONS • FAL
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 • KISSES DON'T LIE • LEAVIN' ON YOUR MIND • LET FORGIVENESS IN • LITTLE BOY SAD • LITTLE ROSA • LONESOME 7-7203 •
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Central Songs Scores

■ NASHVILLE—It's no easy task keeping up with the growing popularity of country music. Central Songs wanted to be a part of this era of growth in the history of country music. They set their standards high and mapped their plans of action to achieve this goal. With the strength of their great catalogue of country standards and award-winning writers as a base, they began to work with established as well as new and unknown writers.

The RW charts, both singles and albums, have been dotted with selections from their standard catalogue as well as songs penned by new writers and recorded by such artists as Charlie Rich, Mickey Gilley, Linda Ronstadt, Marie Osmond, Charlie McCoy, Connie Smith, Charlie Walker, Connie Cato and Jean Shepard. All of them have come up with winners such as: "She Called Me Baby," "Super Kitten," "Silver Threads and Golden Needles," "I Wish We'd All Been Ready," "Invisible Tears," "Odds and Ends," and more. From Canada, Donna Moon, the Newman Sisters, Karl Erikson and Bruce Miller busted the charts with "Standing on the Promises," "Baby and Me," and many more.

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ANNUAL PUBLISHERS LIST

■ A Comprehensive List Of Country Chart Activity By Publishers

From July 14, 1973 Thru August 10, 1974.

Publisher	Songs Charted	Songs In Top 10	No. 1 Songs	Publisher	Songs Charted	Songs In Top 10	No. 1 Songs	Publisher	Songs Charted	Songs In Top 10	No. 1 Songs
ABC/Dunhill	3	1	—	E. B. Marks	1	—	—	Moss-Rose	1	1	—
Abigail	1	—	—	Eden	1	—	—	Music City	1	1	—
Above	2	—	—	Eddie Miller	1	—	—	Newkeys	2	—	—
Acclaim	2	—	—	Edwin H. Morris	2	—	—	New York Times	3	—	—
Ace	1	—	—	Emerald Isle	2	—	—	No Exit	1	—	—
Acoustic	4	2	—	Ensign	1	—	—	Noma	1	—	—
Act One	1	—	—	Evil Eye	9	5	2	100 Oaks	1	—	—
Acuff-Rose	9	—	—	Fame	1	—	—	Owepar	9	2	2
Ahab	3	2	2	Fameville	1	—	—	Palo Duro	1	—	—
Airstream	1	—	—	Famous	2	—	—	Pana	1	1	—
Al Gallico	13	6	2	Fargo House	1	1	—	Parody	1	—	—
Algee	22	7	3	First Generation	3	1	—	Partner	1	—	—
Almo	2	1	—	Flagship	3	2	—	Passkey	1	1	1
Alrhond	1	—	—	Folio	1	—	—	Peer	5	1	—
Altam	2	1	—	Forest Hills	1	—	—	Pen In Hand	1	—	—
American Cowboy	5	—	—	Fort Knox	1	—	—	Pi-Gem	4	3	2
American	—	—	—	Four Star	13	2	2	Pocket Full Of Tunes	1	1	—
Gramophone	1	—	—	Galfeon	1	—	—	Points West	1	—	—
Americus	2	—	—	Gee Whiz	2	—	—	Portofino	2	1	—
Anne-Rachel	1	—	—	George Paxton	1	1	—	Prater	1	—	—
April	1	—	—	Gimp	1	—	—	Prima Donna	3	3	1
ATV	1	—	—	Glad	1	1	—	Prodigal Son	1	—	—
Auoyelles	1	—	—	Glaser	3	—	—	Rada Dara	1	—	—
Backyard	1	—	—	Glass Slipper	1	—	—	Ray Baker	1	1	—
Baron	2	2	1	Glen Leven	1	1	—	Regent	1	—	—
Battleground	1	—	—	Glenwood	1	—	—	Resaca	2	1	1
Bello	1	—	—	Gnosso	1	1	—	Return	3	—	—
Ben Peters	8	3	1	Gold Dust	2	1	—	Ricci Mareno	4	2	—
Bess	1	—	—	Golden Horn	4	—	—	Rick Hall	1	—	—
Beyond	2	—	—	Groper	1	—	—	Roadmaster	2	—	—
Big Sweet	1	—	—	Gulf Stream	1	1	1	Roarin' / Kimtra	1	—	—
Birdwalk	2	—	—	Hall-Clement	1	—	—	Robert Mellin	1	—	—
Blackfoot	1	—	—	Hallnote	9	4	4	Roger Miller	1	—	—
Blendingwell	2	—	—	Hammer & Nails	1	1	—	Rose Bridge	2	1	—
Blue Book	20	5	2	Hanks	1	—	—	Sa-Vette	1	—	—
Blue Crest *	12	2	1	Hank Williams Jr.	1	1	—	Sawgrass	8	2	—
Blue Echo	4	—	—	Hardtack	1	—	—	Screen Gems-	—	—	—
Bob Moore	1	—	—	Harpeth	1	1	—	Columbia	7	1	—
Boo	2	—	—	Harrisongs	1	—	—	Senor	1	—	—
Border State &	—	—	—	Hill & Range	11	4	1	Shada	2	1	1
Pet Mack	1	—	—	Hi-Lo	2	—	—	Shade Tree	5	4	2
Bourne & Co.	1	—	—	Hi Morning	1	1	—	Show Biz	1	—	—
Brandywine	1	—	—	House Of Bryant	2	1	1	Singing River	1	1	1
Brazos Valley	2	—	—	House Of Cash	2	—	—	Sing Me	1	—	—
Briarpatch	3	2	1	House Of Gold	3	—	—	Six Ways	1	—	—
Brooklyn	1	—	—	Hudmar	1	—	—	Song Painter	3	—	—
Brother Karl's	1	—	—	Hudson Bay	2	—	—	SPR	1	—	—
Brougham Hall	1	—	—	Ironside	1	—	—	Stallion	5	3	2
Broughan	1	—	—	Jack	13	4	1	Su-Ma	1	—	—
Buddah /	—	—	—	Jack & Bill	19	2	—	Summerhill	2	—	—
Turnpike Tom	1	—	—	Jack O' Diamonds	2	—	—	Sunbeam	1	—	—
Buckhorn	1	1	—	Jando	1	1	1	Sure Fire	1	1	—
Burlington-Hiller	1	—	—	January	2	—	—	Swamp Fox /	—	—	—
Burlo	1	—	—	Jerry Le Lewis	1	1	—	Whitehaven	1	—	—
Cedarwood	4	1	—	Jobete	3	1	—	Sweco	1	—	—
Central	2	—	—	Joy Gene	1	—	—	Sweet Glory	1	1	—
Champion	1	—	—	Julep	1	—	—	Terry Stafford	1	—	—
Chappell	6	2	1	Kaiser	2	—	—	Toast	1	—	—
Charles Rich	1	1	1	Kama Sutra	1	—	—	Toma	1	—	—
Charlie Boy	1	1	1	Kayteckay	1	—	—	Tomake	1	—	—
Cherry Lane	3	—	—	Keca	4	1	1	Tommy Hill	1	—	—
Chess	3	2	1	Kipahulu	1	—	—	Top Five	1	—	—
Claremont House	1	—	—	Kittyhawk	1	—	—	Travis	1	—	—
Coal Miners	2	2	1	Lady Jane	1	1	—	Tree	40	10	4
Cochise	1	—	—	Landers-Roberts	1	—	—	Tune	1	—	—
Colgems	1	—	—	Laurel	1	1	—	20th Century	1	—	—
Combine	3	—	—	Let Me Be There	1	—	—	Twin Forks	1	—	—
Comet	1	—	—	Levine & Brown	1	—	—	Twitty Bird	5	3	2
Conestoga	1	—	—	Levisa	2	1	—	Two Rivers	1	—	—
Copper Band	2	2	1	Lewis	1	1	1	Unart	2	—	—
Crescent	1	—	—	Little David	1	—	—	Uncle Bens	1	—	—
Crestmoor	1	—	—	Lizzie Lou	1	—	—	Unichappell	3	1	1
Cross Keys	2	—	—	Lowbam	1	—	—	Vector	2	1	1
Danor	5	1	1	Lowery	2	—	—	Venice	2	1	1
Dan Penn	1	1	—	Makamillion	1	—	—	Viva	1	—	—
Delmore	1	—	—	Management &	—	—	—	Warner Brothers	3	—	—
Deodare	1	—	—	Music	1	—	—	Webua	1	—	—
Dimebox	1	—	—	Ma-Ree	2	—	—	Widow	1	—	—
Dixie	1	—	—	Mariposa	2	1	—	Wilbur / Crokagator	1	—	—
Dobbins	1	—	—	Marson	2	—	—	Wilderness	1	1	1
Don Williams	1	—	—	Martin Cooper	2	1	—	Wiljex	1	—	—
Duchess	3	1	1	MCA	1	1	—	Willie Nelson	3	—	—
Dunbar	6	1	1	Meltine	1	1	—	Window	3	1	1
Earl Barton	1	—	—	Mi Cencion	1	—	—	Wits End	1	—	—
Easy Listening	1	—	—	Milene	6	1	—	Yearbook	1	1	—
Easy Nine	1	—	—	Moose	2	—	—				

* Blue Crest Catalog Acquired By Acuff-Rose May 22, 1974.

CMF *(Continued from page 42)*

Center has one purpose — to educate. Unlike the Museum program, the Library emphasizes research and research facilities.

Foundation Press

With the publication of its first two book-length works, the Country Music Foundation Press has staked out the broad territory of historical publishing in country music and recording technology. Two new books, "Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys; An Illustrated Discography," and "The Proceedings of the 1890 Convention of Local Phonography Companies" were issued by the Press in September. The first publication documents the recording career of a pioneering bluegrass artist, and the second reprints a rare historical volume related to the early history of the Edison

phonograph. The Press has previously published two reprints of historical musical instrument catalogues: the 1921 Gibson Catalogue and the 1940 C. F. Martin Catalogue.

In addition to book-length publications, the Foundation Press edits the quarterly Journal of Country Music and has published the Official Hall of Fame Souvenir Book. The Press has also supervised the publication of several research guides used by patrons of the Foundation Library and Media Center.

Future plans call for more reprints of important works related to musical instruments and the development of recording technology. The Press also hopes to create a series devoted to biographical works on early country artists.



Chubby Wise, Curley Bradshaw, Bill Monroe, Sally Ann Forrester, Clyde Moody, David "Stringbean" Akeman (ca. 1943)

Elektra/Asylum *(Continued from page 26)*

Linde's second self-produced album again reaches well beyond his country roots to cover pure pop melodies and aggressive rock songs.

Another recent Elektra country newcomer is Eddie Rabbitt, already a successful country writer with chart experience through records by Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson, Tommy Cash and others. Rabbitt's first Elektra single, "You Get To Me," continues to garner both country and pop acceptance.

While Asylum Records continues its profile as a strong pop and rock force, the label's country involvement has made new inroads during 1974. In addition to Linda Ronstadt, who consistently scores equal success with both country and rock audiences, Asylum has signed Dick Feller. Feller, a widely-respected writer whose songs have been recorded by Johnny Cash and Jerry Reed, made his Asylum debut with the

combined release of his "No Word On Me" album and a hit single, "Makin' The Best of a Bad Situation," earlier this year.

New Additions

The most recent additions to the Elektra/Asylum country family are Larry Ballard and the Hagers. Ballard, a young writer and performer who has been appearing with Linda Hargrove's live road show, is another Pete Drake discovery; his Elektra debut album, "Young Blood and Sweet Country Music," is set for October. The Hagers, whose Elektra debut album and single were recently released, are already familiar to a national audience as five-year regulars on "Hee Haw." Once again, both pop and country acceptance have earmarked their past work.

During late summer, Elektra/Asylum moved its Nashville offices from Seigler Street to a new home at 1201 16th Avenue South.

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- ★ Bobby Lewis ★
- ★ Price Mitchell ★
- ★ Bobby G. Rice ★
- ★ Earl Richards ★
- ★ Ray Stevens ★
- ★ Mel Street ★

GRT



Distributed by:
Chess/Janus Records

Country Music Foundation: The First Decade

(Continued from page 4)

Board of Trustees

"If you can imagine an art gallery being run by the world's greatest art dealers and artists, or a historical museum being supervised by the finest historians, then you can sense the importance of the Country Music Foundation's board," notes Ivey. "They are each involved in exciting careers and have each achieved success in country music, and they bring both knowledge of the subject and administrative skills to the problems of operating the Foundation."



Frank Walker and Hank Williams (ca. 1951)

The Country Music Foundation, in fact, seems to function most like a university board of trustees, with the added ingredient of great knowledge of country music concentrated within the group. The 1974-75 Foundation board of trustees includes:

Frank M. Jones (Capitol Records), chairman; Connie B. Gay, president; Minnie Pearl, secretary; Joe Talbot (Joe Talbot & Associates), treasurer; Harold Hitt (Harold Hitt Ent.) executive vice president; Bill Lowery (Lowery Music), vice president; Roy Horton (Peer-Southern Org.), vice president; trustees Bill Denny (Cedarwood Publishing), Grelun Landon (RCA), Brad McCuen (Peer-Southern Org.), Ken Nelson (Capitol), Dorothy Owens (Buck Owens Ent.), Frances Preston (BMI), Wesley Rose (Acuff-Rose) and Bud Wendell (Grand Ole Opry); and legal counsels Richard Frank, Jr. and Mike Milom.

Hall of Fame

Of all the activities of the Country Music Foundation, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum has achieved the greatest national acclaim and public acceptance. By the end of 1974, more than 300,000 visitors will have toured the Hall of Fame in a single year. Ground-breaking for the expansion project is set for September of 1975, with the completed facility opening to the public in the spring of 1976.

Even as plans for the expansion are being set, the Museum staff will add new exhibits to the existing building. A series of miniature dioramas honoring the pioneers of country music will be opened to the public in November of this year, and a major mural depicting the roots of country music, painted by the distinguished American artist Thomas Hart Benton, will be completed in the spring of 1975. The mural is dedicated to the memory of Tex Ritter.

Today, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum possesses two main subdivisions. The Hall of Fame itself honors those all-time greats in the development of country music whose careers have made an indelible impact upon the direction of country performance. Membership in the Country Music Hall of Fame is an elected honor: an honor bestowed by an individual's peers. The plaques and portraits honoring Hall of Fame members form the focal point for the Museum, and all materials relating to the careers of Hall of Fame members are displayed in the great central hall of the Hall of Fame building.

The remaining exhibit area in the Hall of Fame and Museum attempts to do two things: display materials of all sorts related to the history of country music and the careers of its great innovators, and provide the Museum visitor with a glimpse into the sights and sounds of modern country music. Thus, the Museum wings of the Hall of Fame and Museum contain an excellent collection of musical instruments and costumes, and also provide nearly 45 minutes of slide, tape and film presentations designed

to present the world of modern country music. The Museum contains a simulated country recording session, a film on the history of the Grand Ole Opry and slide shows on the history of country music radio and the relationship between country music and Anglo-American culture.

For the fan of country music and for the patron with a casual interest in country music's past, the Country Music Hall of Fame provides an educational glimpse into the history and nature of country performance. For the specialized researcher, the Museum provides excellent access to the costumes and musical instruments associated with Anglo-American musical performance.



Tex Ritter performing on the Opry (ca. 1966)

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is unique among American museums. It is the only museum dedicated totally to providing cultural and historical data associated with a musical form. It is the only museum dealing with a popular art form which possesses a complete research and publications program to support its exhibit program. And it is the only educational institution of its type ever created by an American media industry.



The Board of Directors of the Country Music Foundation, back row, from left: Roy Horton, Minnie Pearl, Frank Jones, Bill Lowery and Joe Talbot; second row, from left: Grelun Landon, Ken Nelson, Bill Ivey, Harold Hitt, Bud Wendell, and Connie B. Gay; front row, from left: Mike Milom, Wesley Rose, Dick Frank, Frances Preston, Brad McCuen, Dorothy Owens and Bill Denny.



Vito Pellettieri, Bill McElhiney, Owen Bradley (ca. 1950)

Though the Foundation's Library program has not received the attention given its Museum project, the Library and Media Center constitutes nearly half of the educational commitment of the Country Music Foundation. Located in the basement of the Country Music Hall of Fame building, the Library and Media Center houses 50,000 recorded discs, thousands of audio and video tapes, more than 3,000 books on folksongs, country music and southern culture, and a wide range of printed materials related to individuals and institutions dealing with country music. The Library facility is housed in an attractive section of the Hall of Fame building, comprised of a large reading room, extensive stack areas, office space and video and audio tape laboratories. Since the Spring of 1972, the Library and Media Center has been supervised by Library director Danny R. Hatcher.

Library Projects

Library projects have expanded along with the facility's holdings. In 1971, an audio lab — designed for the tape duplication of rare 78 rpm recordings — was established. In 1972, the Library initiated a video tape archive and laboratory designed to preserve country music film and television performance on video tape. In 1973, a full-time record collector was added to the staff in order to facilitate the acquisition of rare recordings. In the same year, the Library and Media Center initiated an oral history of collecting project designed to preserve the memories of performers and businessmen in the country music field.

The staff of the Library and Media Center is composed of a director, assistant, acquisitions director, oral historian, and three Library assistants (each is a graduate student at George Peabody College). Like the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Foundation Library and Media

(Continued on page 43)

Dial Records proudly announces
two Great Country Releases:

Red Lane

"Little Scatter Brain"

Published by
Tree Publishing
Co., Inc.

Written by
Red Lane



Bobbie Roy

"'Til The Feeling Goes Away"

Published by Tree Publishing Co., Inc.
written by Jan Crutchfield — Buddy Killen



Dial RECORDS*, a division of



Tree International

*Distributed by PHONOGRAM/MERCURY

708 17th Ave., So. Nashville, Tennessee
Jack Stapp, Pres. Buddy Killen, Exec. Vice Pres.

BMI: 'Keepin' the Faith'

■ NASHVILLE—At the very beginning, when BMI was formed in 1940, country music was a central concern of the company. The years passed; country developed, attaining high-level status within the music community and admirable popularity among "the people," here and abroad. Simultaneously BMI grew, taking ever increasing pride in its support of music previously passed over by the New York-Hollywood establishment.

"By introducing this music to a larger public, by providing performing rights compensation to all-but-ignored country writers and publishers, the organization performed a major service for American music and for the music of the Western World," country historian Paul Ackerman has declared. "It helped what was once considered a specialty music become an integral part of our culture."

Belief in a music's destiny is one thing. Remuneration for the creator's efforts on the performances of his songs is quite another. BMI put teeth into its philosophy by making possible fair treatment for efforts and performances. By paying advances and guarantees and by paying for performances on local stations as well as networks, the country writers and publishers were able to get hold of their share of the licensing dollar.

By opening the road for all who have anything to say in music, and assuring equal opportunity and fair compensation for composers, old and young, BMI attracted many writers and publishers into the fold. It continues to sign and encourage creators and publishers, on a rising scale. The result: today, BMI administers the performing rights of 40,000 writers and publishers. Keeping the faith has had much to do with it.

The existing and new affiliation of both county publishers and writers generally takes place in Nashville, where BMI has had a stake since opening its doors. Keeping the faith in Music City and for the southern area are BMI vice president Frances Preston and her staff, all deeply devoted to country music in its many aspects.

Mrs. Preston is very much a part of the fabric of country and has been for almost two decades. A product of Nashville who believes in the destiny of country, she has done an enormous amount to make that destiny coincide with her vision. The way she conducts herself and business, it becomes clear that Mrs. Preston feels country "is a giant, persuasive force" . . . and that the country creator and publisher should be looked after.

Her associates, Roger Sovine, director of writer administration, southern area; Helen Maxson, director, performing rights, southern area; Patsy Bradley, director, publisher administration, southern area; and Del Bryant, writer administration, follow an outstanding example. Mrs. Preston started young and grew up as Nashville and country did.

She followed the example of other leading BMI executives, notably BMI president, the late Robert J. Burton, in her degree of involvement with and commitment to the country cause. "When I came to Nashville in 1960," writer Harlan Howard recalls, "and was struggling to get ahead, there were times when Frances had more confidence in my writing than I had. She's totally loyal to people in whom she believes. Frances has undying faith."

BMI's faith and efficacy of operation is mirrored in the degree of growth shown in Nashville over the last two decades. Mrs. Preston and her staff began working out of her home after her

(Continued on page 52)

SESAC Awards Banquet Brings Out the Best

■ NASHVILLE — Bob Thompson, executive director of Nashville operations for SESAC, has revealed that this year's annual awards banquet, to be held at Nashville's Woodmont Country Club, Thursday evening, October 17, marks a record for SESAC in the number of awards to be presented, based on chart achievement of a composition written and published by SESAC affiliates.

115 Awards

A total of 115 awards are to be presented at this year's affair. Plans for this gala evening include a departure from the previous black tie function and a more relaxed, intimate atmosphere, representative of SESAC's 10 year period of continual growth in Nashville. Thompson will preside over the awards function of the banquet assisted by his staff of Arleene Jackson, public relations coordinator, and Fran Watkins, administrative assistant. Also taking part in the presentation will be Jim Black, coordinator of gospel music — a 1974 addition to the Nashville SESAC operations.

The enormous success enjoyed during 1974 by the Ricci Mareno stable of writers and MGB Productions is certain to come in for heavy awards recognition. Ted Harris, Glenn Ray, John Virgin and Lorene Mann are other writers certain to be honored.

SESAC Hits

Some of the songs written and published during 1974 include "I Just Came Home To Count The Memories," one of Contention Music's songs currently on the new Cal Smith album; the current Tommy Overstreet single, "If I Miss You Again Tonight;" the ever-popular "Crystal Chandeliers" on Bobby G. Rice's lp "My Wife's House," Jerry Wallace's single; "Stay 'Til I Don't Love You Anymore" on Melba Montgomery's album; and such Hello Darlin' Music songs as "You Make It Hard (To Take The Easy Way Out)," "She's Just Not Over You Yet" and "A Bad Seed My Daddy Sowed," all on various albums by Conway Twitty.

ASCAP Achieves an Award-Winning Year

■ NASHVILLE — ASCAP's country music chart success continues to break records, according to Ed Shea, southern region director of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Reviewing ASCAP's historic year in the South, Shea commented, "Halfway through the year we had more songs qualifying for awards than during all of 1973. Last year we had a record-shattering 47 songs winning Country Music Awards. This year we'll have over 70. Compare this with 27 winners just five years ago, and you'll witness the steady rise in the influence of ASCAP songs on the country music scene.

"We're also up in top 10 songs, chart songs, and No. 1 songs." Among the writers with no. 1 songs have been Don Riis, Charlie Fields, Bobby G. Rice, Jim Weatherly, Billy Davis, Rory Bourke and Marty Cooper.

Shea noted that Jerry Foster and Bill Rice had their biggest year ever while Rory Bourke emerged as one of the hottest writers in town. ASCAP writer Dave Loggins scored with a no. 1 easy listening song and a top ten pop song with "Please Come to Boston."

The names qualifying for multiple awards this year are an indication of the talented array of writer-publisher members: Foster and Rice, Ray Griff, Tony Joe White, Rory Bourke, Eddy Raven, Jim Weatherly, Art Kent, Frank Stanton, Wild Bill Emerson, John



ASCAP's associate director Gerry Wood (left), southern region director Ed Shea (center) and associate director Charlie Monk.

Denver, Royce Porter, Jack and Bill Music, Chappell Music, Milene Music, Fargo House Music, Blue Echo Music, Keca Music, Golden Horn Music, Tennessee Swamp Fox Music, Cherry Lane Music, Chess Music and Warner Brothers Music.

Among the year's top ASCAP country songs are: "Country Sunshine," "City of New Orleans," "For Ol' Times Sake," "Annie's Song," "I Don't See Me in Your Eyes Anymore," "I'll Think of Something," "I've Got a Thing About You Baby," "Lovin' On Borrowed Time," "Paper Roses," "Rosie Cries a Lot," "Smile for Me," "Song and Dance Man," "Storms of Troubled Times," "Sunshine on My Shoulders," "Sweet Magnolia Blossom," "Take Good Care of Her," "Tell Me a Lie," "That Girl Who Waits on Tables," "The River's Too Wide," "The Whole World's Making Love Again Tonight," "You Can't Be a Beacon (If Your Light Don't Shine)" and "You Make Me Feel More Like a Man."

Writer and publisher membership continued to grow in the southern region, increasing significantly over the number of members a few years ago. "Writers and publishers in our area now realize that they can get the top performance dollar for their songs through ASCAP," Shea said. "We're especially pleased that the record number of writers and publishers we've signed have relayed the ASCAP gospel to their fellow writers—and the word of mouth has been one of our strongest influences."

Established ASCAP members like Billy Edd Wheeler, Bobby Russell, Jim Weatherly, Vaughn Horton, Sharon Rucker, Jerry Smith, Arthur Kent, Frank Stanton, Danny Davis, Jerry Clower, Cy Coben, Guy Clark, Don Robertson, David Loggins and Bob Wills have contributed to the 200 percent increase in the number of ASCAP chart songs over the past few years. They were aided by writers who have switched to ASCAP from other performing rights organizations. Talents like Alex Harvey, Rory Bourke, Buzz Cason, Webb Pierce, Jerry Foster, Charlie McCoy, Ray Griff, Tony Joe White, Eddy Raven, Johnny Wilson, Gene Dobbins, Tony Moon, Don Devaney, Tom Ghent, Jim Ed Brown, Bud Reneau, Biff Collie, Jim Mundy, Charlie Fields, Johnny Howard, Kenny Rogers, Bob Millsap, Larry Collins, Chuck Rogers, Tupper Saussy, Mylon LeFevre, Jerry Allison, Sonny Curtis and many more.

ASCAP NUMBER ONE COUNTRY

Billboard

Records Industry Association of America Seal of Certification (Seal Indicated by Asterisk)

STAR PERFORMER
Star designates record or certification as "million seller" compared to previous week's position.

HOT 100

Chart Bound

SEALS & CROFTS—We May Never Pass This Way (Again) (Warner Brothers 2699)
JOHNNY NASH—Ooh What A Feeling (Epic 5-11034)
THUNDERCLAP NEWMAN—Something in the Air (MCA 80132)
SEE TOP SINGLE PICKS REVIEWS, page 58

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—Artist (Producer/Writer, Label & Number (Distributing Label))
1	3	13	DELTA DAWN—Neil Reddy (Tom Catalano/Neil Reddy, Capitol 3645) B 3

Billboard SPECIAL SURVEY for Week Ending 11/10/73

Billboard Hot Country Singles

This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Writer, Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	2	10	PAPER ROSES—Marie Osmond (Tommy Boy/Sony, RCA 11609) (Lionel ASCAP)

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

NOVEMBER 10, 1973

NOV. 10 NOV. 3
1 3 PAPER ROSES MARIE OSMOND—MGM 14609 9/25/74

Billboard Hot Country Singles

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This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Writer, Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	2	7	I DON'T SEE ME IN YOUR EYES BUT MORE—Charlie Rice (Roulette West, RCA 11540) (Lionel ASCAP)

CashBox/CountryTop75

1 PAPER ROSES
Marie Osmond (MGM 14609)
Lionel ASCAP

CashBox/CountryTop75

1 YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED
Ray Price (Columbia 45889)
(Rock Music—ASCAP)

Billboard Hot Country Singles

Billboard SPECIAL SURVEY for Week Ending 10/6/73

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This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Writer, Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	2	11	YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME—Ray Price (Capitol Records, Columbia 45889) (Rock Music—ASCAP)

Billboard SPECIAL SURVEY for Week Ending 11/17/73

Billboard Hot Country Singles

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This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Writer, Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	1	11	PAPER ROSES—Marie Osmond (Tommy Boy/Sony, RCA 11609) (Lionel ASCAP)

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

NOV. 17 NOV. 3
1 3 COUNTRY SUNSHINE DOTIE WEST—
RCA APBO 0072 10

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

MARCH 30, 1974
MAR. 30 MAR. 23
2 SWEET MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM—
BILLY CRASH CRADDOCK—ABC 11412 12

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

OCTOBER 6, 1973
OCT. 13 OCT. 6

1 5 RED NECKS, WHITE SOCKS AND BLUE RIBBON
BEER JOHNNY RUSSELL—RCA APB0 0321 10

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

AUG. 28 AUG. 17
1 2 YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON DONNA FARGO—

RECORD WORLD THE COUNTRY SINGLES CHART

MARCH 30, 1974

MAR. 30 MAR. 23
2 SWEET MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM—
BILLY CRASH CRADDOCK—ABC 11412 12

CashBox/CountryTop75

1 YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED
Ray Price (Columbia 45889)
(Rock Music—ASCAP)

Billboard Top50 Easy Listening

Billboard SPECIAL SURVEY for Week Ending 11/17/73

These are best selling middle-of-the-road singles compiled from national retail sales and radio station air play listed in rank order.

This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	1	8	DELTA DAWN Neil Reddy, Capitol 3645 (United Artists/Big Ax, ASCAP)

Billboard Top50 Easy Listening

Billboard SPECIAL SURVEY for Week Ending 11/17/73

These are best selling middle-of-the-road singles compiled from national retail sales and radio station air play listed in rank order.

This Week	Last Week	WEEKS ON CHART	TITLE—ARTIST (Label & Number (Dist. Label) (Publisher, Licensee))
1	4	12	PLEASE COME TO BOSTON Dave Loggins, Epic 5-11115 (Lionel ASCAP)
2	1	8	YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WORLD Maver Reddy, Capitol 3897 (Almo ASCAP)
3	2	10	ANNIE'S SONG Neil Reddy, RCA 11609 (Lionel ASCAP)

CASH-BOX/COUNTRY TOP 75

1 YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON (IF YOUR LIGHT DON'T SHINE)
Donna Fargo (Dot 17506)
Merlin Music—ASCAP

CONTACT ASCAP'S NUMBER ONE TEAM IN NASHVILLE:
ED SHEA, GERRY WOOD, CHARLIE MONK
615-244-3936

20th Century Is Goin' Up Country

■ NASHVILLE — 20th Century Records president Russ Regan wanted to go "first cabin" in his decision to enter the country music field. Rather than move in half-heartedly, Regan acquired the services of a top-notch industry veteran—Jimmy Vienneau.

Opening offices in Nashville under the direction of Vienneau, an 18 year veteran of MGM Records, was Regan's way of saying he really meant business. Vienneau has a background in sales and promotion, but his real forte is that of making hit country records. During his tenure at MGM, Vienneau was responsible for producing numerous hit records by Mel Tillis, Stonewall Jackson and Hank Williams, Jr. Vienneau's policy at 20th is to keep a tight roster, build the names individually and bring them steadily up the ladder. He's not opposed to the acquisition of a name artist, but he'd prefer to develop some 20th stars initially "from scratch."

John Mitchell

Working hand-in-hand with Vienneau in Nashville is John Mitchell, 20th's country promotion manager, who also spills into the sales area. Mitchell coordinates very closely with Los Angeles home office executives, national promotion manager Paul Lovelace and national sales manager Mick Brown. Collectively the three broadcast important information to 20th's entire sales-promotion network nationally.

Besides Vienneau and Mitchell, 20th is fortunate to be the home of key personnel who have a real understanding of country workings. Tom Rodden, the label's vice president and general manager, was a Dallas branch manager and one-time southwest district sales manager for MCA Records. National promotion director Paul Lovelace is former country promotion director of latter firm, originally

Granite Country Thrives in L.A.

■ LOS ANGELES — Granite Records, a Los Angeles-based country label formed in the fall of 1973, has accomplished its first-year goal of establishing itself as a serious contender in the country music field. Granite is a subsidiary of ATV Music Group, which is headed in the United States and Canada by Sam Trust. Cliffie Stone, a vital force in country music for more than three decades, is director of the country division of ATV and general manager of Granite Records. Also current president of The Academy of Country Music, he is

(Continued on page 84)



Russ Regan

based in Nashville. National sales manager Mick Brown has been involved in numerous projects involving the likes of Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty and others as a San Francisco branch manager for MCA, as has promo representative Terry Fletcher from his Memphis base. Additionally, Norm Winter, the label's national publicity representative, has worked with Slim Whitman, Bob Wills, Hank Cochran, Diana Trask, Roy Clark and Hank Williams, among others.

(Continued on page 90)

Mercury (Continued from page 26)

Jerry Lee Lewis continues to live up to his nickname, the "Killer." As usual, all his albums and most of his singles in the past year have been top 10. Lewis also made his television dramatic debut earlier this year on "Police Story."

Statler Bros.

The Statler Brothers this year won many awards for "top vocal group." The Statlers broadened their appeal this year with the

Screen Gems-Nashville Develops Writing Talent

■ NASHVILLE — Since Screen Gems-Columbia Music, Inc./Colgems Music Corp. (the music division of Columbia Pictures Industries) opened offices in Nashville in May, 1973, the publishing companies have scored unusual successes in two areas.

Writer Stable

Paul Tanner, general manager of Nashville operations, Charlie Feldman, contract writer and professional manager, and administrative assistant Susan Burns have developed a strong stable of Nashville country writers as well as pop tune composers. They are also exploiting their extensive pop catalogue in Nashville. Tannen cited as examples Johnny Rodriguez' release on Mercury of "We're Over" by two of Screen Gems most prolific contemporary writers, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil; David Rogers' Atlantic Records version of B. J. Thomas' "I Just Can't Help Believing;" "Everybody's Somebody's Fool," the Connie Francis hit, by Atlantic's Jennifer O'Brien; Linda Hargrove's "I've Never Loved

Anyone More" on Elektra; and an album cut of Marvin Hamlisch/Marilyn and Allan Bergman Oscar-winning tune "The Way We Were" by Floyd Cramer on RCA, as well as a new single of the song by Charlie McCoy on Monument.

Talent Search

Tannen and Feldman have spent considerable time interviewing prospective writers and reviewing material in other southern recording centers such as Muscle Shoals, Austin, Atlanta, Memphis and New Orleans.

Screen Gems is about to unveil one of the results of its massive talent search with the debut of Plum Nellie, a popular Austin area country-rock band.

Exclusive Contracts

In addition to such Screen Gems writers as Mac Davis, Barry DeVorzon, David Gates, Mark James, Carole King, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, Tannen has signed exclusive contracts with Charlie Feldman, a pop/r&b writer from Birmingham; Bobby Abshire, country composer from Roanoke, Virginia; Don Goodman, well-known country writer from Nashville; and Paul Harrison of Baton Rouge, a pop composer. On a non-exclusive basis, Screen Gems has signed Alan Ross of Nashville, Fred LaBour of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Sammy Vaughn of Nashville.

Ranwood

(Continued from page 24)

vention. They have received excellent reviews and airplay on their recent single "Loving You," and third country album, "Guy and Raina Country." Clay Hart has just finished recording an album in Nashville with Billy Rice, and Larry Trider's latest single "I'm Coming Nashville," was also produced in Nashville by Ricci Mareno. An accomplished organist, Jerry Smith lives in Tennessee and has repeatedly scored with lively instrumental interpretations of contemporary country hits. Ranwood's Rebecca Lynn, a Kentucky girl now living on the west coast, has a new single, "Cold Carolina Morning," produced by Eddie Martinez.

Enthusiasm

Ranwood vice president and general manager Larry Welk has expressed his enthusiasm about the label's new venture and looks forward to continued active participation in CMA events. "We have established a successful marketing and merchandising formula with our previous prod-

(Continued on page 54)



The Mercury label's country roster continues to bring hits to the Phonogram fold. Pictured from left (top row): that storyteller himself, Tom T. Hall; the youthful Latin rooted country talent of Johnny Rodriguez; and longtime premiere country vocal group, The Statler Brothers. Shown from left (bottom row): celebrating his eleventh year with the label, Faron Young; newly-signed Jeannie C. Riley; hat madman at the piano Jerry Lee Lewis; and a resurging talent also new to the Mercury label, Roy Orbison.

Young country.
 New country.
 Our country.
 The best country.
 Larry Ballard.
 Dick Feller.
 Linda Hargrove.
 The Hagers.
 Melba Montgomery.
 Mickey Newbury.
 Eddie Rabbitt.
 Elektra/Asylum
 Young country.
 Welcome.



Capitol (Continued from page 22)

exactly the title of Connie's initial Capitol album, "Super Connie Cato." It features Connie's first two country hits, "Superskirt" and "Super Kitten," in addition to her latest entry in the country singles chart, "Lincoln Autry."

The Capitol talent roster of country artists working at Nashville also features such stars as Red Steagall and Roy Drusky, both with new albums, and Michael Twitty, Conway's son, who has been stirring up young ladies wherever he goes with his good looks and strong voice (both bearing a striking resemblance to his well-known father).

Opryland Records

Opryland Records, distributed by Capitol Records, is located in Nashville, and the roster for the new label includes Judy Bryte, Lola Jean Dillon, bluegrass pickers Jim & Jesse, J. David Sloane and J. Lee Webb. Opryland is concentrating on single releases under the direction of Jimmy Bowen, and hopes to provide a home for talented newcomers to do their kind of music.

Meanwhile, back in California

For the west coast contingency of Capitol Country Music, the highlight of the year was Merle Haggard garnering the cover of Time Magazine, and the article explaining to the rest of the nation that "... tough, honest, 'hurtin' songs' from the heart helped Haggard, now 37, to live one of the classic success stories in the half century history of country music." Merle's single, "If We Make It Through Decem-

ber," sold in excess of 500,000 copies, and may yet outsell his all-time best seller, "Okie from Muskogee." In honor of Merle's success this year, and previous years, Capitol designated September as Merle Haggard Month, which featured Merle's 30th album, "Merle Haggard & The Strangers Present His 30th Album."

Buck Owens Org.

The Buck Owens Organization, led naturally by Buck himself, has had yet another great year. Buck's songwriting and producing talents have put song after song on the charts, including his two big ones, "On the Cover of the Music City News" and "(It's A) Monster's Holiday," which continued his string of consecutive hits. On the production end, Buck has again watched and listened and turned the right knobs and seen his artists continue to dominate the charts. Susan Raye is still the apple of the public's eyes as she continues to score hit after hit and infatuate audiences wherever she appears. Buddy Alan, too, continues to grow in country stature as both a solo artist and a member of the Buck Owens All American Show. Lovely LaWanda Lindsey, the newest member of the Owens organization, has just released her first album on Capitol, "This Is LaWanda Lindsey," and by the reception she's been getting in her personal appearances all over the country, the album is already a guaranteed winner.

Freddie Hart hasn't slowed down the remarkable pace he set

Tree's Roots Grow Deep

■ NASHVILLE — Tree International, the Nashville-based music publishing complex, has set a record pace of growth in 1974 under the direction of its president Jack Stapp and executive vice president Buddy Killen.

The company has posted record earnings, with more chart songs than any year in its successful history. Both Stapp and Killen point with pride to the company's diversification of material, with activity on the pop and r&b charts as well as country charts. Last year the company announced a program to work on a wider range of material, and,

three years ago and he is enjoying it even more today. The hits just keep coming out of the studio each time Freddie and his musicians get together, and by all indications, "Mr. Easy Loving" is going to get bigger and bigger, if that's even possible. Dorsey Burnette and Brush Arbor also are about to release new albums following the success of their previous albums.

Tennessee Ernie Ford

To celebrate his 25th Anniversary in country music (and with Capitol Records all those years), Tennessee Ernie Ford and Capitol Records have put together two double albums featuring the best of Ernie's long and outstanding career. One album, "Hymns-Gospel," is comprised of Ernie's best gospel efforts, including "The Old Rugged Cross." The second album, "Yesterday-Today," features many of Ernie's hits, including "Sixteen Tons" and "Mule Train."

according to its management, the program has been highly successful.

During the year Tree added eight new writers to its roster, including Earl (Peanut) Montgomery and Lawrence Reynolds.

Dial Productions, a division of Tree, expanded its operation with the addition to Dial of Tommy Allsup, director of Dial Productions. Allsup, a successful studio musician and independent producer, also records for Epic with the group he heads called "Nashville."

New Acts

Eight new acts were signed to Dial—Red Lane, Bobbi Roy, Mary Holmes, Roy Gaines, Jan Crutchfield, Bobby Marchan, Lawrence Reynolds and Karen Allsup. The Dial artist roster also includes Jean Knight, King Floyd, Paul Kelly, Doug Kershaw, Marian Love and Anette Snell.

In addition to having an outstanding year with its chart action and expansion of Dial artists, Tree also expanded its administrative staff adding Donna Hilley to the executive offices, Carol Polston to the office of director of Tree Enterprises and Aileen Sowards to secretary for Dial Productions.

With the growth in business and personnel, Tree again ex-

(Continued on page 76)

TBI Books the Best

■ NASHVILLE—Top Billing, Inc., one of Nashville's leading booking agencies, reports that 1974 has been by far the most successful since the agency's inception.

Top Billing began this year with the addition of Connie Eaton, Jacky Ward, Jean Shepard, the Duke of Paducah, and Pat McKinney to its artist roster. It was also a banner year for The Jack Greene-Jeannie Seely Show.

TBI maintained its status as an international booking agency, having scheduled Jim Ed Brown, Johnny Carver and Marti Brown for European tours. The agency also negotiated an exclusive booking agreement with Country Music, Inc., of Hawaii for the second consecutive year.

Fair Bookings

Always regarded as a strong state and county fair booking agency, Top Billing came through once again in '74. Jim Ed Brown, for example, doubled his number of fair dates, while Del Reeves enjoyed his biggest fair season ever. Brown, who has had the most impressive year of his entire career, will be featured as Top Billing moves into the area of industrial show.

(Continued on page 50)



Capitol country acts Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Anne Murray, Glen Campbell, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Connie Cato, Susan Raye, Freddie Hart, Red Steagall.

**America
is pickin'
Mercury
artists**

Melody Allen

Penny DeHaven

Tom T. Hall

Jamie Kaye

Jerry Kennedy

Roy Orbison

Statler Brothers

Faron Young

Carl Perkins

Larry Lee Lewis

Jeanie C. Riley

Johnny Rodriguez

Young'uns

Linda Hall Lewis

Suzi Maddy

Gary Sargeant

Nick Nixon

**And Mercury artists
are pickin' C.M.A.**



products of phonogram, inc., one IBM plaza, chicago, ill.
a polygram company

A&M's Country Crop

■ LOS ANGELES — 1973 found A&M Records with its first number one country album—Kris & Rita's "Full Moon" — and 1974 boasts a roster with many artists currently recording country material, including Hoyt Axton, Rita Coolidge, Tom Jans, Joanne Glasscock, Sam Neely and the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

Axton, long famous as a songwriter supplying material to Three Dog Night, Steppenwolf, Joan Baez and others, has recorded many albums over the years, but has finally found commercial success with his newest, "Life Machine." Two singles from that album have achieved country chart status. Hoyt has also been chosen to host an up-coming half-hour progressive country television show entitled "New Country" which will air on NBC weekly beginning in January.

Ms. Coolidge has four solo albums apart from the popular duet album she recorded with her husband, Kris Kristofferson. Her latest
(Continued on page 78)

A Magical Year For Mega Records

■ NASHVILLE—Through the administrative talents of Dave Bell, Mega Records and Tapes, Inc. has gone from the edge of bankruptcy less than one year ago to a hit producing company. Out of eleven singles released in the past twelve months, six have been chart records for a better than 50 percent batting average. In albums, Mega charted with two out of three.



Marilyn Sellars

California Dave Bell effected Mega's fantastic turn around through changes in structure, operation and philosophy. Los Angeles-based Bell's innovations started with the promotion of Mega's Ed Hamilton to the position of national promotion and sales director for the company and head of the Nashville office. Bell retained former Epic president Len Levy, now head of his
(Continued on page 52)

MGM Combines The Old and New

■ NASHVILLE — MGM represents all facets of country music with its strong roster, and during the past year has maintained an admirable track record of keeping an average of 8-10 records on the charts.

MGM boasts three Hall of Fame members — Hank Williams, Roy Acuff (on Hickory but distributed by MGM) and Eddy Arnold. All three have product on the market and doing well—especially Hank Williams even though he's been deceased since 1953. In addition, MGM has such progressive country artists as Tompall, Roy Acuff, Jr., and Billy Joe Shaver as well as others including Sherry Bryce, Jerry House, Sami Jo and Marie Osmond. The last two were both double Grammy nominees last year.

Dick Glasser

Recently named to the post of director of Nashville operations for MGM was Dick Glasser. Terry Brown has been named to head artist relations and special projects and Bob Alou has been promoted to national director of promotion.

After re-establishing their commitment to country music, MGM is now prepared to go forward with progressive and enthusiastic representation of country music. Their outlook is to the traditional music of Roy Acuff, Hank Williams and Eddy Arnold as well as being equally concerned with the new and changing face of country music.

Capricorn Country Is in High Gear

■ MACON, GA. — Capricorn Records established its country music department in 1973 with the signing of singer-songwriter Kenny O'Dell. Several months later, in December of '73, Phil Walden, president of Capricorn Records, announced the signing of the "Queen of Country Music," Miss Kitty Wells. That move prompted headlines in country circles, for Miss Wells had a lifetime contract with Decca/MCA Records, which she cancelled to sign with Capricorn.

The two newest Capricorn artists are Johnny Darrell and Tom McKeon, both of whom have had singles released within the past two months. Another artist currently successful with the country sound is guitarist Richard Betts. Betts is the lead guitarist with the Allman Brothers Band and has just released his first solo album, "Highway Call." Although not a country artist per se, Betts has already gained much country acceptance and acclaim for his album, as well as last year's hit

Warner Bros:

The Nashville-Burbank Alliance

■ NASHVILLE — Warner Bros. Records' involvement in country music continues to grow as the Burbank label expands its Nashville base of operation. With a solid roster of country artists and a new administrative team headed by Andrew Wickham, director of country music, operating out of Burbank, and Jonathan Fricke, general manager for Warner's Nashville operations, Warner Bros. is committed to building its country credibility. The label has experienced a number of chart singles and albums in the short time its Nashville office has been in operation; several strong releases are expected in conjunction with the CMA convention.

Leading the list of Warner Bros. country successes is Rex Allen, Jr., who has had a string of three hits for the label—"The Great Mail Robbery," "Goodbye" and the current "Another Goodbye Song." Rex has come up with his Warner's debut album this month, titled "Another Goodbye Song," produced by Larry Butler. The

original Warner country artist is Doug Kershaw, whose current album, "Mama Kershaw's Boy," has been one of his best sellers to date. Kershaw's latest single, "All You Want To Do Is Make Kids," produced by Buddy Killen, has just been released. New to Warner Bros., but familiar to most devotees of country music, is Merle Kilgore, who scored for the label with "Montgomery Mabel." A noted writer ("Ring of Fire," "Wolverton Mountain") and performer—he's been touring with Ray Price. Merle has appeared in several films recently and is now readying his next Warner Bros. release, "Love O' Love."

Other notable denizens of Warner country include Debbie Hawkins, who is produced by Norris Wilson for Al Gallico; Debbie Dawn, whose controversial single "Hands" has been re-released; and Kenni Husky, produced by Andy Wickham. Another bright Warner star on the distaff side is Lynda K. Lance,
(Continued on page 76)



WB country artists, from left: Rex Allen, Jr., Doug Kershaw and Debbie Hawkins.

Sussex Goes Country

■ LOS ANGELES—Clarence Avant, president of Sussex Records, recently announced his company's entry into country music with the release of "I Like Country Music" by Jack Rainwater. The release, produced by Mike Theodore and Dennis Coffey, is on their Clarama label. Bob Davidson, senior vice president for Sussex stated that the establishment of the Clarama label and the retaining of independent promotion executive Bruce Hinton to head up a national network of independent promotion men to launch this release, is Sussex's attempt to make a major move into country music. Hinton coordinates his team's efforts with Sussex through Wendell Bates, national promotion director for Sussex.

Major Commitment

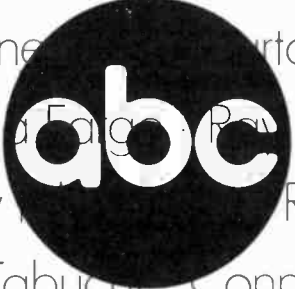
Avant stated that Sussex is making a major commitment to country music and the announcement of additional country artists being signed to the Clarama label is forthcoming.

single by the Allman Brothers Band, "Ramblin' Man," which he wrote and sang.

Kenny O'Dell's first country single, "You Bet Your Sweet, Sweet Love," was released earlier this year was followed by the successful "Let's Go Find Some Country Music." Capricorn released Kenny's debut album, aptly titled "Kenny O'Dell," in August. The album, produced by O'Dell and recorded in Nashville, includes many of his most successful songs including "Behind Closed Doors," "I Take It On Home," "House of Love," "Soulful Woman" and the two aforementioned singles. A new Kenny O'Dell single titled "I'll Find Another Way" has just been released and is also featured on the album.

For the first time in her career, Kitty Wells recorded outside of Nashville. The event took place February, when Miss Wells recorded several tracks for her forthcoming album at Capricorn Sound Studios in Macon. Out of that in
(Continued on page 48)

Sue Richards · Pat Roberts · Joe Stampley · Hank Thompson · Diana Trask · Shuji Tabuchi
Conny Van Dyke · Don White · Simon Crum · Jimmy Buffett · Johnny Carver · Billy "Crash" Craddock
Lefty Frizzell · Ferlin Husky · Eddie Raven · Bobby Wright · Jeris Ross · Jim Mundy · Duane
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Acuff-Rose:

Progress, Growth and Leadership

■ NASHVILLE—During 1974, the Acuff-Rose Companies have again enjoyed a period of ever increasing growth, success, and innovative expansion both in the United States and in the international market. At home the companies, which were first founded by the Acuffs and Fred Rose in 1943 as Nashville's first publishing company, continued their pre-eminence not only with the great standards of Hank Williams, Leon Payne, Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart, but also through the brilliant new generation of writers. In 1974 Acuff-Rose-published songs of Don Gibson, John D. Loudermilk, Glenn Barber, Gene Thomas, Mickey Newbury, Eddy Raven, Roy Orbison, Bobby Bond and

others appeared again and again on the charts of *Record World* and rode across the airways of the radio networks.

Blue Crest Music

In May, Acuff-Rose acquired the outstanding catalogue of Blue Crest Music, Inc., containing songs such as "There Goes My Everything," "The Son of Hickory Holler's Tramp," "That's The Way Love Goes," "All I Have To Offer You Is Me" and "Johnny One-Time." Even more importantly, the young publisher-owner of Blue Crest, Ray Baker, was brought into the Acuff-Rose family as executive-publisher-producer. Sanger "Whitey" Shafer and Dallas Frazier signed exclusive song-

(Continued on page 52)

MCA *(Continued from page 24)*

age of its kind to have come out in years." Recently, Bill Monroe recorded the album "Father and Son" with his son, James, and with this album, MCA embarked on its second generation of bluegrass talent.

Jerry Clower

In addition to bluegrass and country musicians, MCA also records the country comedy of Jerry Clower. Clower's newest release, "Country Ham," part of the

"Country Partners" campaign, has been another MCA hit on the country charts.

This year, MCA country artists Loretta Lynn and the Coalminers featuring Kenny Starr, Conway Twitty, Mary Lou Turner and Bill Anderson, Cal Smith, Jeanne Pruett, George Morgan, Jerry Wallace, Jimmie Peters, Ronnie Robbins, and Peggy Sue all performed at the Fan Fair in Nashville, an annual salute to country music.



MCA Records continues to boast an artist roster as varied as it is successful. Shown here (top row, from left): country's English import Olivia Newton-John, that "Country Ham" man Jerry Clower and "Whispering" Bill Anderson. Also pictured (bottom row, from left): the "Satin Sheets" gal Jeanne Pruett; Marty Robbins and Jerry Wallace.

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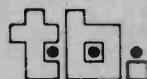


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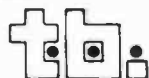


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Mercury Keeps Cookin' Up the Hits

■ CHICAGO—When a company has an artist roster that includes the names of Johnny Rodriguez, Tom T. Hall, Jerry Lee Lewis, the Statler Brothers and Faron Young, one might expect a complacent, "take-it-for-granted" attitude to exist. But at Phonogram, Inc., the company with the above-mentioned acts, there is a general attitude of "how much farther can we go?"

New Signings

Recently, the Mercury label of Phonogram took steps to reinforce its already impressive country roster with the signings of Jeannie C. Riley and Roy Orbison. Ms. Riley's signing marks a reunion of sorts for her. The man who wrote "Harper Valley P.T.A." was Tom T. Hall, and the man who played the prominent dobro licks in the song was Jerry Kennedy, who is her producer with Mercury.

For Orbison, it is also a reunion. Kennedy, also Orbison's producer, played on many of Roy's biggest hits of the mid-'60s including "Oh, Pretty Woman." In all, Orbison has had 30 singles hit the pop charts during his 15 years of recording.

There are also several other artists who are in the growing

stages of mass acceptance. Gary Sargeants, the drummer and featured performer in the Tom T. Hall band, Nick Nixon and Penny DeHaven each have had chart singles.

Jack Pride

In charge of the development of these acts is Jack Pride, recently appointed to the post of national promotion, country. Based in Music City, he is assisted by Doyle McCollum.

Johnny Rodriguez continues to be a phenomenon in country music. In the span of two years he has had six top five singles (three were number one) and two of his three albums were number one. In July, he headlined a country festival in Wembley, England. His fourth album, "Songs About Ladies And Love," has just been released.

Tom T. Hall

Tom T. Hall, the "Storyteller," is back in the top 10 with his new lp, "Country Is," also the title of his latest single. The past year has been good to "T." He had his first full-fledged pop hit with "I Love," and the follow-up, "That Song Is Driving Me Crazy," was number one country and also did well on the pop charts.

(Continued on page 38)

Elektra/Asylum:

Country in a Contemporary Vein

■ NASHVILLE — While Elektra/Asylum Records has only just passed the first year mark in its history, that year has seen the company emerge as a youthful force in country music, its roster of southern artists varied in style but unified by their contemporaneity. Elektra/Asylum's involvement with country music, beginning well before the two labels joined forces, has extended to the creation of a Nashville office early in 1974 to serve as focal point for the E/A country roster, as well as nerve center for country promotion activities.

Elektra Records began its country involvement with the signing of Mickey Newbury over three years ago. Newbury's arrival brought the label a prototype of contemporary southern songwriting, a widely-respected Nashville-based writer whose literacy and originality transcended conventional country tags. Newbury anticipated the eventual emergence of a country "underground;" today, he continues as a distinctive pioneer in contemporary southern music.

Elektra's earlier range of broadly varied southern styles

shifted its focus to Nashville early in 1973, when the label signed Linda Hargrove, a protege of producer, pedal steel virtuoso and publisher Pete Drake, himself a Music Row maverick due to his continual involvement with progressive country projects. As Nashville's first woman engineer and session musician, Linda had already established herself among the Music Row veterans, but, more important, her writing had gained acceptance with both traditional country audiences and her youthful contemporaries.

Shortly after Linda's arrival, Elektra also signed its first veteran country performer, Melba Montgomery. With Elektra and producer Pete Drake, Melba has since achieved the broadest acceptance of her career, capped by her success with Harlan Howard's "No Charge," which marked Elektra/Asylum's first number one country record.

Also signed to Elektra in 1973, and set for a second album this fall, is Dennis Linde, a versatile songwriter and studio musician first introduced to E/A as co-producer for Mickey Newbury. (Continued on page 43)

Phil Davis "Oh Give Me a Four Square Melody" CI #101
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Joy Ford "You'll Get Over It" #102
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MCA Maintains Its Tradition As a Country Superpower

■ NASHVILLE — MCA Records, Inc. has long been a leader in the country music field. The company, which combines the Decca, Kapp and Uni labels "under the rainbow," started signing country artists no fewer than 40 years ago. At that time, these musicians were referred to as "hillbilly singers" and it was MCA star Ernest Tubb (who has been with Decca since 1940) who persuaded executives to call his music style "country."

National Acceptance

Whatever the title, the sound has finally caught on nationally. In 1961 there were 81 country radio stations in the United States, and most of these were located in and around Nashville. A recent survey by the Country Music Association has shown that there are now 1000 full-time country music stations throughout the nation, and most radio stations playing popular music include country songs in their programming.

Throughout the years, MCA Records, Inc. has consistently maintained its position as one of the top recording companies in the country and western field. In fact, Decca always had at least 15 percent of its country artists on the charts. As in previous years, 1974 saw a continued expansion of MCA's roster of country musicians. MCA Records' President J. K. Maitland successfully concluded negotiations with Merle Haggard and Fuzzy Owen, co-presidents of Tally Records, for an exclusive MCA distribution agreement for the newly formed Tally-MCA label. Artists currently signed to Tally-MCA are Bonnie Owens, Ronnie Reno (rhythm

Ranwood to Participate In CMA Convention

■ LOS ANGELES . . . For the first time since its inception in 1967, Ranwood Records will participate in this year's CMA DJ Convention in Nashville. Based in Los Angeles, Ranwood has traditionally been an MOR label with heavy merchandising orientation for such artists as Lawrence Welk, Ray Anthony, the Mills Brothers and Myron Floren. Recently, however, the label has begun bidding for its share of the country market with a roster including Guy and Ralna, Larry Trider, Clay Hart, Rebecca Lynn and Jerry Smith.

Husband and wife team Guy and Ralna who are featured performers on the nationally syndicated "Lawrence Welk Show," will be flying into Nashville from the west coast to attend the con-
(Continued on page 38)

guitarist in Haggard's band) and Silver Creek (a country rock group). A number of major signings to this new label are anticipated in the near future. Recent additions to MCA's own country list include Little David Wilkins, Atlanta James, Jimmie Peters, Bonnie Guitar, Marie Owens and Ronnie Sessions. MCA Records, Inc. also distributes all Shelter Records product, including the country music of J. J. Cale, Willis Alan Ramsey and Larry Hosford.

Sales History

This year also marked MCA's most successful sales and promotion campaign (both in units and in dollars) in the company's history. The campaign, titled "Country Partners," featured the label's country artists. MCA's country music roster includes such stars as Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Bill Anderson, Jeanne Pruett, Marty Robbins, Cal Smith, Carl Belew, Ernest Tubb, Jerry Wallace, Lenny Dee, the Wilburn Brothers, Jack Greene and Jeanie Seely, George Morgan, Brenda Lee and Olivia Newton-John. The "Country Partners" promotion consisted of album releases in three phases backed

by a mass merchandising campaign. Every album released in the "Country Partners" promotion hit the charts, with "If You Love Me, Let Me Know" by Olivia Newton-John and "Country Partners" by Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn going to the number one spot. Olivia Newton-John's album crossed over to the pop charts and the album was recently certified gold by the RIAA.

In addition to its exceptional standing in the country music industry, MCA has also been a leader in the field of bluegrass music, a style that is rapidly gaining in popularity throughout the U.S. Bill Monroe, elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1970, is known as "The Father of Bluegrass Music." Credited with creating the bluegrass sound, Monroe has been a successful MCA artist since the 1940s, and the Osborne Brothers and Jimmy Martin have followed Monroe into the MCA bluegrass family. MCA's double album "Bean Blossoms," recorded live at Monroe's Seventh Annual Bluegrass Festival, has been called "the best pack-

(Continued on page 30)

Tally-MCA:

A Landmark Achievement

■ LOS ANGELES—Tally-MCA Records, the newly-formed Merle Haggard-Fuzzy Owen label that will have world-wide distribution through MCA, is unique among the independents in that it is the first label to be founded and administered by a major country recording artist. The multi-million dollar distribution agreement with MCA accords both Haggard and Tally a status that has previously been realized only by pop artists.

A&R Men

Haggard currently records exclusively for Capitol Records and is not under contract to his label's distributor. Haggard and his personal manager, Fuzzy Owen, will direct Tally-MCA operations from their Bakersfield offices, although a change of location is anticipated within the near future. Tally is also planning to appoint a label manager, since Haggard intends to continue fulfilling his own touring and recording schedules. Both Haggard and Owen, therefore, will function primarily as a&r administrators and general managers of Tally.

Fuzzy Owen has owned the Tally name since the late fifties. In 1962 he signed Haggard to Tally Records and released "Sing a Sad Song;" after three hit singles, Owen retired Tally in 1965, signed Haggard to Capitol



Mike Maitland, Merle Haggard

Records, and devoted himself to full-time management. He and Haggard now share ownership of Tally-MCA.

The first release on the new label is Ronnie Reno's "The Wintering Kind" b/w "September in Miami," scheduled for October 15 release. Reno, who previously played with Sonny and Bobby Osborne and is currently a guest artist on The Merle Haggard Show, is a singer, writer and guitarist, and has just finished recording his debut album at Jack Clements Nashville studios, with Bill Compton producing.

Bonnie Owens, who was also on the original Tally label and recorded for Capitol until last year,
(Continued on page 82)

Crutchfield Is the Key To MCA Music's Hits

■ NASHVILLE — Jerry Crutchfield is a distinct and unique composite of what the music business is all about. Performer, composer, publisher and producer are the main facets of this multi-talented music man. Originally a recording artist for RCA in the late '50s, Crutchfield came to Nashville working as a publisher representative, background singer, musician and as a composer, having more than 160 songs recorded by major artists, including the top names in all phases of the music business.



Jerry Crutchfield

Crutchfield has headed up the successful MCA Music operation in Nashville since the early '60s, with many MCA songs consistently on the charts coming from the Duchess, Champion, Leeds, Pickwick and Northern music catalogues. This past year has seen many strong copyrights developed including "Satin Sheets," "The Teddy Bear Song," "Kid Stuff," "Baby Doll," and the pop hit "Please Come To Boston." With the exception of "Satin Sheets," all were produced by Crutchfield. His relationship with artist Barbara Fairchild goes back a long way. Together, they continue to make regular appearances in the top 10, as Barbara has now become one of the top female artists in the business.

Shelter: Deep Roots In Country Music

■ LOS ANGELES—Although Leon Russell and Denny Cordell's Shelter Record Company is known primarily for rock music, Shelter, whose product is distributed by MCA Records, Inc., has always had deep roots in country music.

Few are aware of the fact that one of Leon Russell's idols was the late Hank Williams. In fact, Leon's most recent single release, the country-rock "Leaving Whipporwill" from the album "Stop All That Jazz," is a tribute to Hank Williams. This follows Leon's 1973 country album "Hank Wilson's Back." Inspired by the Nashville sound and talent, Leon cut an entire country style album. It features Hank Williams' classic
(Continued on page 76)

Committed to Country?

We began as Country labels and have never stopped being two of the greatest. In fact, we're proud that MGM/Hickory counts three CMA Hall of Famers on our Artist Rosters: Eddy Arnold, Roy Acuff and Hank Williams.

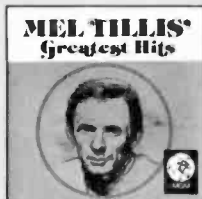
It's a commitment that started when Hank Williams, our first artist, put MGM on the charts.

And it's a continuing commitment that's helped us at MGM/Hickory keep eight to ten of our artists on the Country charts every week this year.

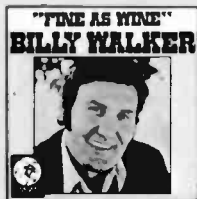
We can do this because we cover the whole spectrum of Country from progressive Country stylists to the great established Country legends.

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RECORDS

Executives, Artists Join Forces To Make UA Country Strong

■ NASHVILLE — United Artists Records' commitment to country music has never been more in evidence. The recent appointment of former hot country independent producer Larry Butler to the post of creative director, country product, plus the broadening of the office to accommodate the talents of Jack Mesler and Lyn Shults opened the door to increased activity at UA's Nashville facility; the results are already being felt in the country market, with reverberations reaching the pop field as well.

Ongoing Commitment

Al Teller, president of United Artists Records, comments that "United Artists has an ongoing total commitment to country music. I believe it is one of the most vital areas musically—and UA intends to be a major part of its continued growth."

High on the list of things happening at UA Nashville is Sunday Sharpe's new single, "I'm Having Your Baby," her country-cover version of Paul Anka's pop chart-topper. The disc is produced by Butler.

Equally hot, though a little newer on the scene is Billie Jo Spears, whose discing of Bobby

Goldsboro's early smash "See the Funny Little Clown" is causing people to listen to the song with new ears.

Calico

Not to be outdone by these femme flashes is newly signed country-rock group Calico, whose new (and first) US single "Come On Down to Texas" has just been released. A Texas-based band from the Austin area (right now one of the centers of country-pop music in the country), Calico promises to break new pop ground for UA's Nashville folks.

No mention of country music would be complete without a discussion of the contribution of country swing inventor Bob Wills. United Artists' "For the Last Time" commemorated Wills' achievement by setting down on wax a get-together of Wills and his sidemen in the Texas Playboys. During the recording of the album, Wills suffered a stroke and he is still critically ill. The album was recently accepted into the Library of Congress as an historical document. Special ceremonies honoring Wills are scheduled as part of this year's CMA convention.

(Continued on page 82)

Capitol Country's Year Highlighted By Commitment to Music City

■ NASHVILLE — With the announcement by Frank Jones, vice president of c&w, Capitol Records, that the country division of the label was relocating its offices from the Capitol Tower in Hollywood to Music Row in Nashville, Capitol Records has signaled a major effort to expand its Nashville operations. In conjunction with the move to Nashville, Bill Williams was named national country sales and promotion manager and will be based in Nashville. Don Ovens becomes director, country marketing services, and will be based in the Capitol Tower.

West Coast Country

Commenting on the move, Jones said: "We know that we already have the best country talent that the west coast has to offer, in the organizations of Buck Owens and Merle Haggard and our other super artists, and now we want to further develop our Nashville acts. And we have some great ones."

Three new major female talents from Nashville who have signed with Capitol Records this past year are LaCosta, Arleen Hardin, and Connie Cato, and although none are from Nashville per se

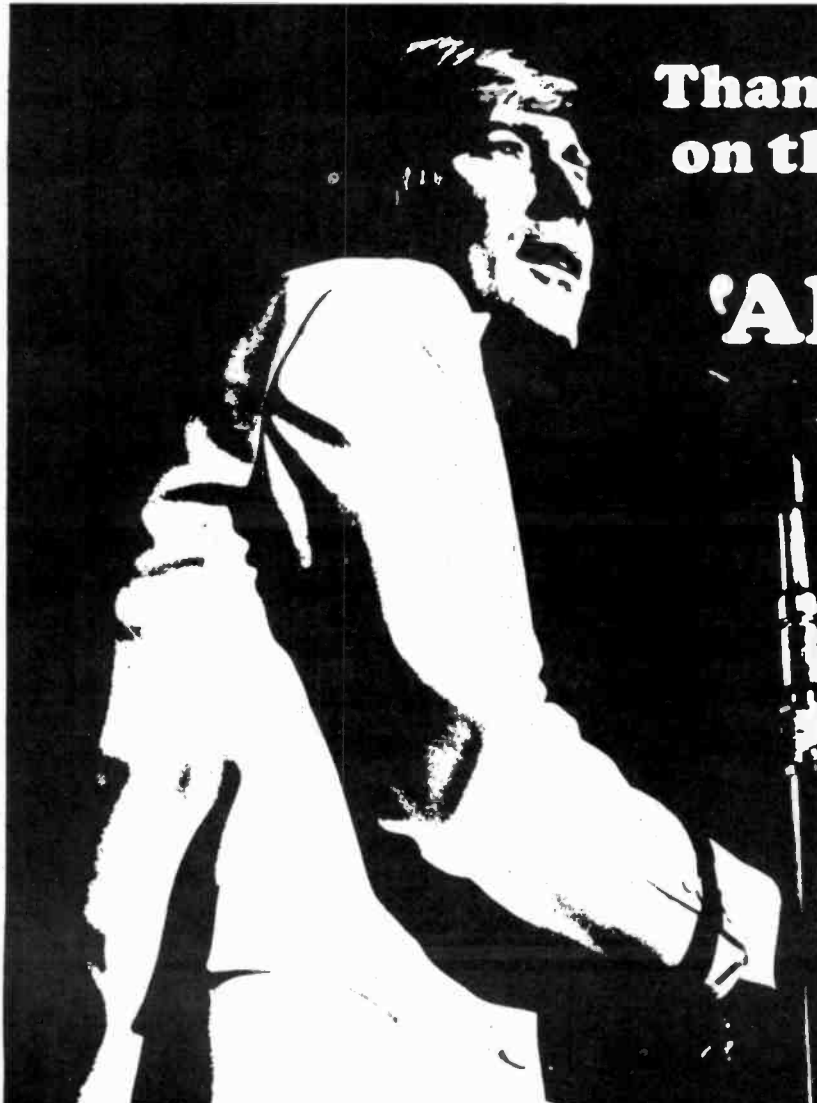
they are definitely part of Capitol's future in Music City.

The fact that LaCosta is Tanya Tucker's older sister is one of country music's worst kept secrets. On the other hand, not many know that LaCosta was also the first songstress in the family, until she decided to go to college before pursuing her career. Now, with her schooling behind her, LaCosta has signed with Capitol Records, and her first two single releases "I Wanna Get To You" and "Get On My Love Train," were greeted with such enthusiasm by country fans everywhere that LaCosta has just released her first album, "Get On My Love Train."

Arleen Hardin comes to Capitol Records via the Hardin Trio, a successful family unit featuring Arleen and her brother and sister. Finding the trio more confining than she planned, Arleen decided to go solo. She scored with three hits before signing with Capitol, and the company looks forward to continuing those earlier successes.

No other word describes the third Nashville arrival Connie Cato better than super, and that's

(Continued on page 34)



**Thanks jocks for a Great Year!
on the other side of the 'Hill'
is ...**

'ALL LOVED OUT'
Dot = 17519
**the side that's
breaking out!!!**

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LOR CRANE

DANNY MICHAELS

RON FRASER

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LOWELL FULSON

JOE NIXON

BILLY GALE

LINDA RING

CHUCK HOWARD

BILLY JOE SHAVER

MITCH JOHNSON

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FRED KOLLER

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CHASE MARTIN

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GORDON TERRY

TEX WILLIAMS

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LONDON

MEMPHIS

NASHVILLE

NEW YORK

RCA Keeps Those Country Hits Comin'

■ NASHVILLE — The first six months of 1974 were the most successful for sales in the history of RCA Records, and it hasn't shown any signs of slowing down. Contributing to the success were the tremendously successful chart records and the number one records RCA has posted so far this year: Dolly Parton—"Jolene" and "I Will Always Love You;" Hank Snow — "Hello, Love;" Bobby Bare — "Marie Laveau;" Bobby Bare and Bobby Bare, Jr. — "Daddy What If;" Waylon Jennings—"This Time" and "I'm A Ramblin' Man;" Ronnie Milsap — "Pure Love" and "Please Don't Tell Me How The Story Ends;" Charley Pride—"We Could;" Charlie Rich — "There Won't Be Anymore" and "I Don't See Me In Your Eyes Anymore."

In addition, RCA has caused the dawn to happen for a few new careers in 1974. The most successful, of course, was the meteoric rise of Ronnie Milsap. His "Pure Love" single became number one in *Record World* on June 8. His next single "Please Don't Tell Me How The Story Ends" leaped up the charts and reached the number one spot on September 21, and it's still going strong.

RCA pulled off a miraculous turnaround with Gary Stewart's "Drinkin' Thing" single. RCA execs decided to re-release the single just six months after their first attempt. This time however, it happened and Gary Stewart had himself a top ten record and a spot on the Charley Pride road show as a result.

Brian Shaw is another artist that has had good things going for him. All of his singles received good airplay, and his newest single, "Here We Go Again," looks like it should establish him solidly in the hearts of programmers and record buyers.

"We want to develop and bring home new acts," says Jerry Bradley, who was recently named division vice-president, Nashville operations. He adds, "And we are doing everything we can to help, like scheduling releases at the best possible time and doing follow-up promotion. Of course, we're not going to forget our established acts," he explains, referring to the RCA roster that includes Dolly Parton, Waylon Jennings, Porter Wagoner, Charley Pride, Nat Stuckey, Dottie West, Danny Davis, Skeeter Davis, Jethro Burns, Kenny Price, Johnny Russell, Jerry Reed, Jim Reeves, Hank Snow, Dickey Lee, Floyd Cramer, Johnny Bush, Archie Campbell, Minnie Pearl, Bobby Bare, Jim Ed Brown, and Chet Atkins. "We are working hard to establish new artists like Josie Brown, Brian Shaw, Barbara Lea, Leona Williams, the Four Guys, Karen Wheeler, Debra Barber, John Wesley Ryles, Curtis Potter, the Pridemen and Lenora Ross, whose first RCA single will soon be released, and we just recently signed fiddle master and singer Vernon Oxford," says Bradley.

It's interesting to note that RCA and Bobby Bare started a trend in 1974. Bobby and Bobby Bare, Jr. started the father/son records with "Daddy What If." Immediately after the success of that record, many others came on the scene. Bobby's current album develops the family idea even fur-

(Continued on page 25)

Country on the Square



National Country Music Month was kicked off in the northeast on the steps of City Hall in New York City, where president of ESCMI Mickey Barnett and SESAC's Michael Molinari received a proclamation from New York City's Deputy Commissioner of Public Events Arlene Wolfe. The ceremony was attended by WHN general manager John Kelly, WHN operations mgr. John Mazure, Paul O'Dwyer and Dr. George Seuffert, the Mayor's Advisor on Musical Events. A crowd of about 300 gathered at the steps of City Hall to hear live country music by "Northwest Passage." At 2 p.m. the Country Music entourage were joined at Times Square where, pictured above, WHN's Lee Arnold, CMA's Roy Horton and Bob Austin, publisher of *Record World*, proceeded to change Times Square to Country Music Square for the month of October. Also among those attending the Times Square ceremony were promoter Al Aronowitz, night club owner Hugh O'Lunney and Down Yonder Records executive Gabe Vee. Following the festivities a Cocktail Party at O'Lunneys was sponsored by Down Yonder Records—New York City's newest country music independent label. Entertainment was provided by ESCMI's "Country Cookin'."

Monument Means Multiple Hits

■ NASHVILLE — Monument Records has just completed its biggest year and seems headed for even more success. The label is currently in the midst of its greatest period of growth. Kris Kristofferson, Charlie McCoy, Boots Randolph and Lloyd Green are all doing better than ever; two major artists, Larry Gatlin and Billy Swan, have just broken through; and there's a new Kris & Rita album ready to go.

Monument Month, held in May of this year to celebrate the third year of their successful association with CBS Records, was the label's biggest single month. And Monument continues to account for a substantial portion of the CBS Custom Label sales.

(Continued on page 88)

Columbia Country Is Hit Territory

■ NASHVILLE — Columbia Records, perennial leader in the country music industry, continued to constantly develop and maintain the recording careers and record success of its star-studded roster in 1974. Over 75 percent of Columbia's country artists have reached the top of the national country charts. This year, 44 percent of all singles released placed in the national top ten.

Producers

The Columbia creative effort is spearheaded by vice president of a&r Billy Sherrill and vice president of Nashville operations Ron Bledsoe. Sherrill and Bledsoe provide the in-house production, with additional support from independent producers Ray Baker, Rick Hall, Bob Montgomery, George Richey, Glenn Sutton and Norro Wilson.

Lynn Anderson, Tanya Tucker, Sonny James, Barbara Fairchild, Connie Smith and Freddie Weller consistently provided top ten singles throughout the year, while Barbara Mandrell, Roger Miller, Mac Davis, Johnny Duncan, Johnny Tillotson and Johnny Cash added more country hit singles to Columbia's successful singles campaign.

Columbia marketing abilities continued to gain record album sales figures in 1974. Lynn Anderson, Mac Davis, Barbara Fairchild, Sonny James, Barbara Mandrell, Roger Miller, Connie Smith, Freddy Weller, Tanya Tucker and the Earl Scruggs Revue were major contributors to the huge album volume registered in the past twelve months.

The development of new talent
(Continued on page 56)

RW Honors LP Paying Tribute To Bob Wills

■ *Record World* presents a Special Album Award to "For The Last Time," a unique two-record set conceived as a tribute to Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, commemorating his forty years as the King of Western Swing.

The set was recorded in Dallas on December 3-4, 1973, incorporating the talents of several original Texas Playboys and others who had joined the band in post-war days. Also featured is Merle Haggard who, although he was never a member of the group, asked to participate because he "had always been a Texas Playboy at heart."

Bob Wills himself is a part of this album. Although he was in a wheelchair as a result of a stroke in 1969, he attended the first day's session, directing the proceedings, occasionally supplying his famous holler.

That night he suffered another crippling stroke and although his condition again temporarily improved, since July it has gradually worsened to a semi-coma state in a Ft. Worth hospital.

So, "For The Last Time" is a historic packaging of nostalgia for Western Swing fans, ably produced by Tommy Allsup as a memento to an era that spawned much of today's country success.

Country Charttoppers: An Epic Event

■ NASHVILLE—Epic Records has provided country music with a phenomenal year of hit records. Six number one singles, three gold singles and three gold albums highlight the label's achievements.

Charlie Rich received three CMA Awards, three Academy of Country & Western Music Awards, a Grammy and four Grammy nominations and added his "Most Beautiful Girl," "A Very Special Love Song" and "I Love My Friend" to his collection of number one singles. "Most Beautiful Girl" also joined Rich's "Behind Closed Doors" single in the gold-winning category. Three Charlie Rich lps, "Behind Closed Doors," "Very Special Love Songs" and "The Best Of Charlie Rich" garnered the number one chart position and have a combined total of over two years on the national charts. "Behind Closed Doors" and "Most Beautiful Girl"

(Continued on page 54)

Mickey Gilley

Selected
#1 Most Promising Male Vocalist
(Singles)



Thanks, Record World...and Congratulations, Mickey,
on Two Successive Smash Hits!

	BB	CB	RW
For The Year: "Room Full of Roses"	1	1	1
For Right Now: "I Overlooked an Orchid"	2•	⑤	③

Playboy  Records

MICKEY GILLEY

MOST PROMISING MALE VOCALIST OF 1974

Says Thanks for

**TWO NUMBER ONE SINGLES
IN A ROW**

A Special Thanks to

EDDIE KILROY

My Producer—My Promotion Man

and Most of All My Friend

And Thanks to

PLAYBOY RECORDS

“An Incredible Record Company”

Talent Agency Represents

ARLENE HARDEN



DOYLE HOLLY



DAVID HOUSTON



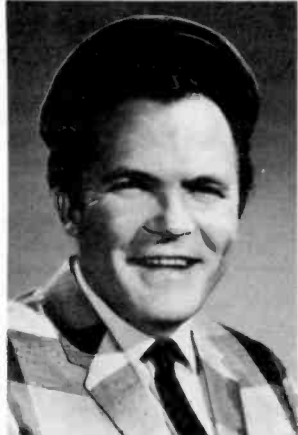
SHOJI TABUCHI



O.B. McCLINTON



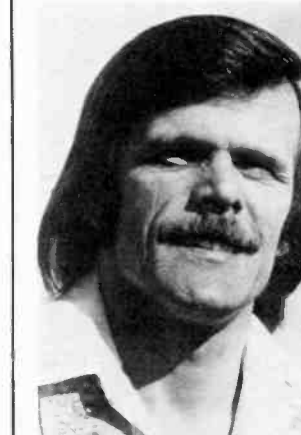
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STELLA PARTON



JOHNNY PAYCHECK



DIANNE SHERRILL



PATSY SLEDD



JOE STAMPLEY



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THE LOVEMAKERS



BILL PHILLIPS



JEANNE PRUETT



PAUL RICHEY



JERIS ROSS



Shorty Lavender, President



Don Fowler, Vice President



TOP COUNTRY SINGLES OF 1974

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>ARTIST</u>	<u>LABEL</u>	<u>PRODUCER</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>WRITER</u>
1. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD	Charlie Rich	Epic	Billy Sherrill	Gallico/Algee	Rory Bourke, Norris Wilson & Billy Sherrill
2. I LOVE	Tom T. Hall	Mercury	Jerry Kennedy	Hallnote	Tom T. Hall
3. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR BEFORE	Conway Twitty	MCA	Owen Bradley	Twitty Bird	Conway Twitty
4. THERE WON'T BE ANYMORE	Charlie Rich	RCA	Chet Atkins	Charles Rich	Charles Rich
5. IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH DECEMBER	Merle Haggard	Capitol	Ken Nelson	Shade Tree	Merle Haggard
6. PAPER ROSES	Marie Osmond	MGM	Sonny James	Lewis	Fred Spielman & Janice Torre
7. AMAZING LOVE	Charley Pride	RCA	Jack Clement	Pi-Gem	John Schweers
8. JOLENE	Dolly Parton	RCA	Bob Ferguson	Owepar	Dolly Parton
9. A VERY SPECIAL LOVE SONG	Charlie Rich	Epic	Billy Sherrill	Algee	Billy Sherrill & Norris Wilson
10. COUNTRY BUMPKIN	Cal Smith	MCA	Walter Haynes	Tree	Don Wayne
11. ROOM FULL OF ROSES	Mickey Gilley	Playboy	Mickey Gilley	Hill & Range	Tim Spencer
12. IF YOU LOVE ME	Olivia Newton-John	MCA	John Farrar	Gallicb	John Rostill
13. THE STREAK	Ray Stevens	Barnaby	Ray Stevens	Ahab	Ray Stevens
14. EVERYBODY'S HAD THE BLUES	Merle Haggard	Capitol	Fuzzy Owens	Shade Tree	Merle Haggard
15. RIDIN' MY THUMB TO MEXICO	Johnny Rodriguez	Mercury	Jerry Kennedy	Hallnote	Johnny Rodriguez
16. NO CHARGE	Melba Montgomery	Elektra	Pete Drake	Wilderness	Harlan Howard
17. THERE'S A HONKY TONK ANGEL	Conway Twitty	MCA	Owen Bradley	Danor	Troy Seals & Denny Rice
18. YOU'RE THE BEST THING	Ray Price	Columbia	Don Law	Keca	Jim Weatherly
19. HELLO LOVE	Hank Snow	RCA	Chet Atkins & Ronny Light	4 Star	Betty Jean Robinson & Aileen Mnich
20. MARIE LAVEAU	Bobby Bare	RCA	Bobby Bare	Evil Eye	Shel Silverstein
21. WE'RE GONNA HOLD ON	George Jones & Tammy Wynette	Epic	Billy Sherrill	Altam/Hi Morning	George Jones & Earl Montgomery
22. ONE DAY AT A TIME	Marilyn Sellars	Mega	Clarence Selman	Buckhorn	Marijohn Wilkins & Kris Kristofferson
23. ANOTHER LONELY SONG	Tammy Wynette	Epic	Billy Sherrill	Algee	Billy Sherrill, Tommy Wynette & Norris Wilson
24. LOUISIANA WOMAN, MISSISSIPPI MAN	Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn	MCA	Owen Bradley	Dunbar	Becki Bluefield
25. WORLD OF MAKE BELIEVE	Bill Anderson	MCA	Owen Bradley	Gulf Stream/Singing River	Pee Wee Maddox, Marion Carpenter & Pete McCord
26. WOULD YOU LAY WITH ME	Tanya Tucker	Columbia	Billy Sherrill	Window	David Allen Coe
27. SLIPPIN' AWAY	Jean Shepard	UA	Larry Butler	Stallion	Bill Anderson
28. BLOOD RED AND GOIN' DOWN	Tanya Tucker	Columbia	Billy Sherrill	Tree	Curly Putman
29. I'M NOT THROUGH LOVING YOU YET	Conway Twitty	MCA	Owen Bradley	Twitty Bird	Conway Twitty & L. E. White
30. RED NECKS, WHITE SOCKS AND BLUE RIBBON BEER	Johnny Russell	RCA	Jerry Bradley	Jack	Bob McDill, Chuck Nesse & Waylon Holeyfield

See page 36 for a list of the past year's number one country singles.

COUNTRY DECADE AWARDS

MALE

Johnny Cash
Sonny James
Buck Owens
Charley Pride

PUBLISHER

Acuff-Rose
Blue Book
Gallico
Tree

FEMALE

Lynn Anderson
Loretta Lynn
Kitty Wells
Tammy Wynette

GROUP

Glaser Brothers
Statler Brothers

DUO

Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
Porter Wagoner & Dolly Parton
Wilburn Brothers

PRODUCER

Owen Bradley
Billy Sherrill

INSTRUMENTAL GROUP

Danny Davis & The Nashville Brass

INSTRUMENTALIST

Chet Atkins

POSTHUMOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Jim Reeves

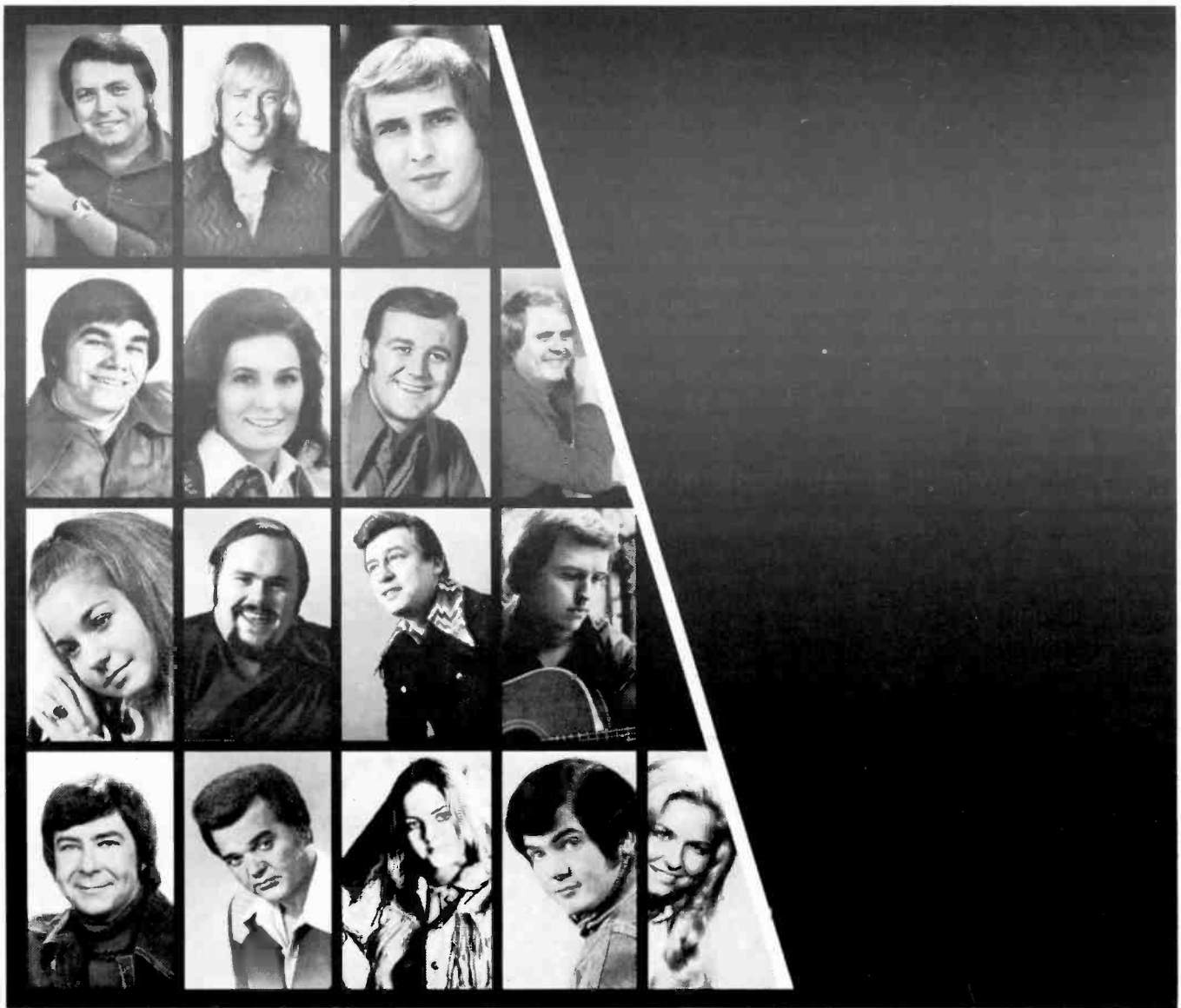
SWEET COUNTRY MUSIC

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BY
**SUNBURY/
DUNBAR
MUSIC**

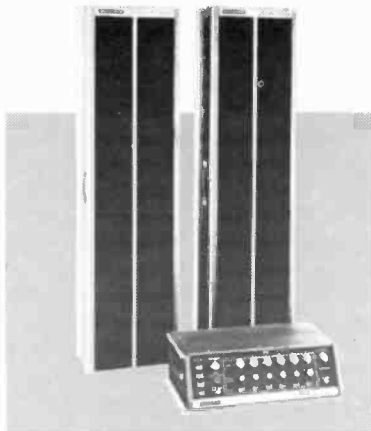


HOMEMADE
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**GUY CLARK
TONY LORDI
RAY PENNINGTON**

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Opry's birthday bonus.



This year the Grand Ole Opry's birthday present is the biggest ever—an all-new home in Opryland U.S.A. And helping to celebrate Opry's 49th birthday and its new auditorium will be Shure—and United Talent's Mickey Gilley, Atlanta James, Anthony Armstrong Jones, Dickey Lee, Loretta Lynn, Warner Mack, Jimmie Peters, Linda Plowman, Johnny Russell, Cal Smith, Kenny Starr, Nat Stuckey, Conway Twitty, Kathy Twitty, Michael Twitty, and Karen Wheeler. Showtime for this gala birthday party is 10:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 16th, 1974. Tickets are included in the WSM Grand Ole Opry 49th Annual Birthday Celebration Ticket Book. Y'all come!

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1974: Busy and Productive Year for CMA

■ NASHVILLE — Over the years, the Country Music Association's annual radio station survey has attested to the growing popularity of country music, and 1974's report is certainly no exception.

The survey revealed that as of March, 1974, 1129 stations were programming country music on an exclusive basis—more than a 10 percent increase over 1973. In addition, 1370 stations were programming country music at least three hours per day while 434 stations aired country up to three hours daily. Another interesting fact: At the time the survey was taken, radio stations were programming 27,499 hours of country on a daily basis.

Of the 6800 questionnaires sent to stations in the U.S. and Canada, approximately 4000 were returned, showing better than a 58 percent return.

Piracy Progress

When the CMA board of directors met in New Orleans this past January, one of the main topics on the agenda was tape piracy. At that time, the board reaffirmed CMA's total commitment to obtaining anti-piracy legislation, and the results to date have been encouraging. As it stands now, there are 26 states with anti-piracy statutes, and a bill introduced by Senator Brock of Tennessee would cover the areas of interstate and foreign commerce in terms of "counterfeit recordings."

At the second quarterly CMA board meeting in Hollywood, Florida on March 22 and 23, the board attended joint meetings with NARM and RIAA to outline further industry procedures in dealing with tape piracy.

Hit Parade

CMA's Second Annual "Country Music Hit Parade" was an outstanding success. It pulled the highest rating (24.8) and share (40) for any country music special, taped or shown live, from the Grand Ole Opry House. Hosted by Eddy Arnold, the "Hit Parade" was aired February 4 over the CBS-TV network. Performers on the show, in addition to Arnold, were Conway Twitty, George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Charlie Rich, Dottie West, Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass, Jeanne Pruett, Patti Page, Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass, and Ben Smathers and the Stoney Mountain Cloggers.

Fan Fair '74

In its third year, 1974's Country Music Fan Fair set new attendance records when it attracted some 14,000 fans to Nashville for a full week of country music activities. Fans came from every state in the nation, as well as Finland, Australia, Germany, Canada and

Japan. Nearly 200 country music artists were on hand to perform, sign autographs and have their pictures taken with fans.

The Fourth Annual Fan Fair is scheduled for June 11-15, 1975. At press time there were more than 150 requests for booths in the exhibit area. A free softball tournament—added to the agenda in 1974—will again precede the festivities. Fan Fair is co-sponsored by CMA and the Grand Ole Opry.

A new two-story Country Music Association building at 1511 Sigler in Nashville became the home for CMA headquarters during the first week of June. The building is now filled to capacity with other companies directly related to the country music industry.

In keeping with the worldwide popularity of country music, Tokyo, Japan was the site of the third quarterly CMA board of directors meeting on June 28-29. The board first met in Nashville on June 21, then traveled to Japan at their own expense to reconvene at the Tokyo Hilton on the 28th. CMA director Charley Pride entertained at many of the shows and was much in demand for guest appearances on various television and radio programs. The board members were pleased to note that country is so popular in Japan that Tokyo alone boasts a total of 151 country night clubs.

Country Music Month

As country music grows, nationally and internationally, so does

Country Music Month. As part of this year's "October is Country Music Month" celebration, New York City's Times Square was renamed Country Music Square in a sign changing ceremony on October 1. Along with CMA's customary Country Music Month activities (mass mailings of promotional kits, bumper stickers and window banners to country music stations), other displays are planned for libraries, book stores, (Continued on page 78)

Red's 'Wrap-Up': A Programming Tool

■ Red O'Donnell's "Year End Wrap-Up" has been used in the past as a script for weekend country radio specials simply by reading the story and intermittently playing the appropriate records. Following **Record World's** top country singles listings through the year has also been a useful programming tool, as has the airing of discs by **RW** award winners.

Anyone wishing to utilize such features as airplay aids is welcome to do so; all **Record World** requires is prior notification of and credit for the use of copyrighted material.

The **Record World** staff will be happy to answer any questions and aid with problems arising in the putting together of such a show.

NSA: Success for The Songwriter

■ NASHVILLE — In 1967 a small group of Nashville songwriters joined together to establish what is now known throughout the country and various parts of the world as the Nashville Songwriters Association. Those few dedicated people took an active part, giving of their time and talent, to spread the word that an association had been formed which they felt was long overdue, an association which would work diligently toward its purpose and goal—to gain more recognition for the songwriter.

NSA, a non-profit organization, is growing in membership daily. Membership is open to all songwriters; to qualify as an active member the writer must have had at least one song contracted by a publishing company that is affiliated with a recognized performance agency. Associate membership is open to those writers who have not yet achieved professional status.

Officers

A voluntary association, and chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee, NSA holds annual election of officers. The current officers are: Joe Allison, president; Biff Collie, vice president; Lorene Mann, secretary; Ron Peterson, treasurer; and Bud Wingard, sergeant-at-arms. These officers work closely with their board of directors, which includes Bill Anderson, Joe Bob (Continued on page 62)

The Grand Ole Opry's Best Year Yet

■ NASHVILLE—On the eve of its golden anniversary, WSM's Grand Ole Opry entered a new era of entertainment with the move earlier this year to the magnificent new Grand Ole Opry at Opryland USA.

After performing in a succession of auditoriums—six to be exact—over the past 49 years, the Grand Ole Opry is finally settled in a place that the Opry performers and their legions of fans can truly call home.

The opening ceremonies and dedication show was held on March 16. In attendance was former President and Mrs. Nixon, other government officials, celebrities and country music enthusiasts. They were royally entertained by the entire Grand Ole Opry cast.

Fan reception at the new Opry House has been excellent. The Opry now programs three regular shows: the Friday Opry and two Saturday evening performances. During the Opryland season, Easter until late Fall, and during

the peak summer months, the Opry management schedules matinee shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In addition, an Opry star performs daily in the auditorium as part of the Opryland entertainment package.

Construction

Construction of the new Opry House began November 21, 1971. In designing the new facility, WSM officials and architects were concerned with maintaining the intimacy that so thoroughly binds the Opry's performing artist with the audience. This intimacy factor was complicated by the fact that the Opry House seats more than 4,400 persons, making it one of the largest auditoriums in the nation and the largest radio and television broadcasting studio in the world.

Aside from designing a friendly, aesthetically pleasing building, WSM wanted to furnish Grand Ole Opry talent the ultimate in professional support — acoustics, electronics, staging, rehearsal, lighting, dressing rooms, and stor-

age facilities.

Functioning separately from the broadcasting studio is a television production center with a 300-person seating capacity and complete facilities for videotaping, telecasting, or broadcasting network originations or nationally syndicated music shows for WSM-TV, WSM-AM-FM, and Opryland and for independent and network producers. The studio has the same audio capability as the larger Opry House.

(Continued on page 78)

Opry Trust Fund Aids Needy Musicians

■ NASHVILLE—"Just imagine all of those big people helping a little guy like me," is typical of the grateful comments received by the Opry Trust Fund, which has distributed over \$300 thousand to needy families and individuals throughout the United States.

(Continued on page 78)

It's Unanimous!

Voted Comic of the Year

by Billboard, Cash Box and Record World

The Most Sought After Humorist in Country Music Today!

JERRY CLOWER



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GOOD OLE NASHVILLE MUSIC
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SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
SOUTHERN LIVING
PEOPLE MAGAZINE

FEATURED SUBJECT —

WALTER CRONKITE — CBS NEWS
MEL TILLIS SHOW
DINAH SHORE SHOW
MINNESOTA, IOWA, AND ILLINOIS
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