

THE CASH BOX Country Roundup

GRAND OLE OPRY . . . The Roy Acuff, Johnnie and Jack and Kitty Wells Grand Ole Opry package show continues to wrap up top grosses on their current tours. Marty Robbins (Columbia) grabbed off top honors in the recent "Tennessee Hayride" Poll conducted by Ralph Emory over WSIX here in Nashville.



CHET ATKINS

Hubert Long, manager of Faron Young and the Wilburn Brothers, currently touring the 'Opry' talent and plans to work the artists into Chicago for the Music Operators Show the latter part of the month. Hal Smith, manager of Carl Smith and his Tunesmiths (Columbia) mapping out plans for Carl to tour to the West Coast. The Louvin Brothers, Charlie and Ira, who have been holding forth at WVOK in Birmingham for the past several months, move into Nashville and Grand Ole Opry as regulars on the show. Their first night as regulars on the 'Opry' was Feb. 26. Dolly Dearman reports that Helen Cyr, secretary to Webb Pierce, recently married Buddy Hawk who records for Sheraton Records. Chet Atkins recently laid out recording sessions for Skeeter Bonn (RCA Victor) and Bud Isaacs (Victor) for sessions here in Nashville in the absence of the label's A&R topper, Steve Sholes. Bobby Lord (Columbia) who this writer predicted several weeks ago to be one of the strongest additions to the Columbia Country roster in sometime, did his first Grand Ole Opry guest spot on Feb. 19. The lad is breaking through with lots of play with his version of "I'm The Devil Who Made Her That Way." Grandpa Jones (RCA Victor) into Canada for personal appearances, while Cousin Minnie Pearl (Victor) joins Faron Young (Capitol) for a few one nighters. Justin Tubb (Decca) clickin' like a house afire with "Gotta Go Get My Baby" working a ten day tour! The (Bill) Carlisles (Mercury) make bid for another top tune as the team gets goin' with a thing called "Rusty Old Halo" which scored the Cash Box Bullseye of the week! The Carlisles just recently teamed up with the Lane Brothers for a show in the Akron Armory for Cliff Rodgers. Minnie Pearl slated for the date was grounded in Nashville! WSM's Grand Ole Opry exhibiting at the MOA Convention in Chicago at the Morrison Hotel—the Fifth Annual Convention March 28, 29 and 30. All arrangements and promotion being handled by Murray Nash Associates, Inc., Nashville. Col. Tom Parker and Hank Snow back in Nashville after tour through Texas!



MINNIE PEARL

HAYRIDE HAPPENINGS . . . Maxine and Jim Edward Brown continue their disk click with a new one that should hit the top for this pair "Draggin' Main Street." . . . Maxine and Jim recently pooled their talents with Faron Young, The Wilburn Brothers, Martha Carson, Ferlin Huskey and Elvis Presley, now a Louisiana Hayride regular, for a personal appearance in Memphis. Bob Neal manager of Presley promoted the date and Texas Bill Strength of KWEM helped on the promotion. Neal had Presley working the Circle Theatre Jamboree in Cleveland, O., Feb. 26. The Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Day Celebration in Meridian, Miss. this year is being sponsored by the Louisiana Hayride . . . such Hayride artists as Jim Reeves, Slim Whitman, Carolyn Bradshaw, Johnny Horton, Jim Edward and Maxine Brown, Elvis Presley, Jack Ford and a long list of others in Country music are expected to attend this year's program!



TEXAS BILL STRENGTH

FROM THE CROSSROADS OF COUNTRY MUSIC . . . Red Foley's "Ozark Jubilee" continues to originate from Columbia, Mo. while the Jewell Theatre is undergoing an overhaul and facilities being installed to originate the show from Springfield. The Davis Sisters breaking through with their rendition of "Everlovin'" guested on the ABC Coast-to-Coast "Jubilee" Feb. 19. Jim McConnell, veteran talent agent, just concluded arrangements for the bookings of Hawkshaw Hawkins (RCA Victor), Porter Wagoner (Victor) and Jean Shepard (Capitol). McConnell will be working with Lou Black's Top Talent Agency of Springfield, Mo. Bill and Monty Matthews now headin' up the Foggy River Boys quartet (Decca) and making regular appearances on the Foley radio and television shows.

BIG "D" JAMBOREE . . . News release from Gene Evans of the Charles Wright Agency, informs us that the Joe Bill unit of the "Big D Jamboree" in Dallas, has started a new 45-minute video stint on KRLD-TV on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. This is in addition to Joe's personal appearances, and a half hour on the Jamboree on Saturday nights. The new TV seg is dubbed "Joe Bill's Country Picnic" and features the entire cast of the road unit: Joe Bill, emcee and vocalist; Gene Evans, Bobby Bird, Betty Lou, and Jimmy Fields, featured singers; Bob Bly and Jerry (Cornbread) Plumb handling comedy; and a 5-piece band consisting of Johnny Gimble, George McCoy, Charlie Streight, Sug Newman, and Johnny Meadows. A special guest star will be featured each week.



CAROLYN BRADSHAW

COUNTRY SMATTERINGS . . . Notation from Henry Tuck of WREV, Reidsville, N. C. says that Sunset "Kit" Carson was into their city with a great show and an fine act built around the cowboy stars "shooting ability." Tuck also mentioned the fact that his Saturday night Jamboree is still going strong! Nice looking Publicity mag out on Texas Bill Strength who is now doing four hours deejay work per day over KWEM in Memphis. Mac Wiseman (Dot) out with a brand new release . . . "Davy Crockett" and "Danger, Heartbreak Ahead." Jack Howard dropped into the New York office and gave us the 2nd issue of the attractive and informative Hank Snow fan club booklet. Jim Wilson all set to leave WHOO-Orlando, Fla., this week and head North to take up his duties at WAVE-Louisville, Ken. Mel Foree, rep for Acuff-Rose publications, recently visited with Joe Morris-WOIC, Columbia, S. C. Sheriff Tex Davis, WCMS-Norfolk, Va., tells us that Faron Young, The Wilburn Brothers, Little Jimmie Dickens

and Del Wood are scheduled to appear at the Norfolk Auditorium on March 13th. Tom Edwards, WERE-Cleveland, informs us via his newsletter that he's been packin' them in at his Circle Theatre shows in town. Martha Carson, Ferlin Huskey and The Carlisles are coming in for a one-nighter on the 1st of March. Sid Friedman, All Star Theatrical Agency, Hippodrome Theatre Bldg. Cleveland, handles the bookings for Tom's shows.



FOGGY RIVER BOYS

WAX-WISE . . . Figured since so many people are talking about Country Music going R&B it would be good to POP these few things your way for a bit of thought. Who's kiddin' who? There's more good country tunes around now than there has been in a long time. As a matter of fact, there's a goodly share of the Country tunes being covered in the POP field right now! Frankly, I think Country music is as strong as ever—and it's been a long time since there were as many covers on country tunes by the pop artists as there is today. Let's look at a few: Just a few weeks back Marvin Rainwater (Coral) recorded a tune called "Gotta Go Get My Baby" and right away Justin Tubb (Decca) jumped on the tune—both country artists—immediately following this, Teresa Brewer in the Pop field came out with the tune. Eddy Arnold did a song called "I've Been Thinkin'" and today we also hear recordings of the same song by the Four Lads on Columbia and Rusty Draper on Mercury. Next the Davis Sisters (RCA Victor) recorded a drivin' tune with plenty of sock called "Everlovin'" . . . now you can hear the Pop version by Patti Page on Mercury also! And, of course I know most of you will remember the Wade Ray version of "Let Me Go, Devil" about a year ago. Well, only a few months back now, the tune came to the public's attention again—only this time the title being changed to "Let Me Go, Lover." . . . Hank Snow recorded the thing in the country field—and today it's ridin' high for Hank! In all of the cases pointed out here, with the exception of the last one—Country music is holdin' its own—and is attracting artists from other fields right along! So actually, whenever a country artist records a good country tune the 'hit' potential is still there!



MAC WISEMAN

Meeting Dates Of Music Operators' Associations

- Feb. 28—Central States Music Guild
Place: 805 Main Street, Peoria, Ill.
- Mar. 1—Phonograph Merchants' Assn., Cleveland, Ohio
Place: Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio (executive board).
- 1—Arizona Music Guild, Phoenix Chapter #1
Place: 1738 West Van Buren, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 3—Phonograph Merchants' Assn., Cleveland, Ohio
Place: Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio (General)
- 3—California Music Merchants' Assn.
Place: Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento, Calif.
- 3—Eastern Ohio Phonograph Operators' Assn.
Place: Tod Hotel, Youngstown, Ohio (General)
- 7—United Music Operators of Michigan
Place: Fort Wayne Hotel, Detroit, Mich.
- 7—California Music Merchants' Assn.
Place: 311 Club, 311 Broadway, Oakland, Calif.
- 8—California Music Merchants' Assn.
Place: Fresno Hotel, Fresno, Calif.
- 8—Western Massachusetts Music Guild
Place: Ivy House, W. Springfield, Mass.

CINCINNATI CUT-UPS

Just about every where you travel you will hear folks in show business say "I got my start in Cincinnati". Personally I believe that more people in show business hail from the Queen City than from any other American city. So it goes when we hear of singers making good I like to write a line or two about them, as this column is for all Cincinnati show folks both those who have gone forth and those who have remained in the mid-West.

Danny Scholl is one of these who have gone forth and has made good on "Chance Of A Life Time", the show emceed by Dennis James over Dumont-TV. This young baritone was first brought to my attention during World War II when he held down two jobs, one as a singer the other in a defense plant. We believed then as we do now that he has a great future and wish him loads of luck from the Queen City.

Will Rogers, Jr. was in town this weekend with a special rodeo show

at the Gardens. . . . Judy Perkins can still be heard on WLW, she's no longer on TV. . . . Joe "Cannonball" Lewis (MGM) appearing at the Hough-79th Theater in Cleveland. His manager El Rader passes along the news that Joe was written up in Douglas Watt's "Let's Look At The Records" column for the New York News. . . . Bobby Lord (Columbia) in town appearing on country dj shows pluggin' his new record "I'm The Devil Who Made Her That Way". . . . The Blackwood Bros. Quartet in town for a special WLW show. . . . Jim Runyon will head a WLW-TV product named "Studio Two" seen daily starting Feb. 28th. . . . Morgan Sister's (King) are doing well with their new release "Evergreen". (Getting lots of spins around here). . . . Jimmie Williams (MGM) appeared on Marty Robert's (Coral) "Truck Driver's Show" WCKY, and was interviewed with his new record "No One Knows". . . . Nelson King still taping his disc shows from his home because of a recent illness.