

## Country Music Report

### CMA Names Station Promo Winners

ASHVILLE-The winning stations in the recently conducted Country Music Month Contest have been announced by the Country Music Association. Coming in 1st in the 1968 campaign was KBBQ-Burbank, followed by WHPL-Winchester, Va. and WSHO-New Orleans, La.

Each of the three winning stations will receive a special award inscribed with their call letters on it as special recognition by the Country Music Association.

Responsible people of the winning stations are KBBQ, Bill Ward, WHPL, Bill Peters and WSHO, Bob Young.

Stations getting honorary mention are: WLBS Centerville, Miss. Dixie Duncan, WMTS Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Tom Perryman, KLEE Ottumwa, Iowa, Neil Ingle, KAND Corsicana, Texas, Richard C. Parker, WTCR Ashland, Kentucky, Mike Todd, KJBC Midland, Texas, Keith Ward, KGEN Tulare, California, Pete Jorum, WICY Malone, New York, Rick Carson, KGEK Sterling, Colo-

rado, John Dollar, WBCA Bay Minette Alabama, Dave Scott, WJAM Marion, Alabama, E. H. Huntley, KRDS Phoenix, Arizona, Bob Pond, WBKB Saint Rauls, North Carolina, Coleman O'Neal, WBRG Lynchburg, Virginia, C. Wayne Campbell, KFTW Fredericktown, Mo., John W. Billingsley, KBLE Seattle, Wash., Anita Busek, KMAD Madill, Oklahoma, Dustin Spivey, KSTL St. Louis Mo., Jenny Jamison & Sketta Yaney, KMMO Marshall, Mo., Joe Harris, KKKW, Lafayette, La. and WCJW.

The stations were chosen for their outstanding promotion of October as Country Music Month through on-the-air promotions, and contests in their communities. Jo Walker, executive director of the CMA said "We were very pleased with the response again this year from all our CMA broadcasters. The quality and cleverness of the stations in promoting Country Music Month impressed our panel of judges very much."

### Academy Packages Country Caravan

BEVERLY HILLS-The Academy of Country & Western Music last week packaged a "Country Caravan of Stars" entourage, which held performances in three clubs in the Los Angeles area on Dec. 8. An announcement from Academy president Johnny Bond states that over three dozen artists were assembled for the package, with shows running between 1:00 and 6:00 PM at the Palomino, Ace's and the Foothill Club.

Tickets to the event were priced at \$2.00 each and were good for admission to any and all of the clubs during the afternoon.

The artist roster for the event included, among others, Jimmy Wakely, Tex Williams, Jerry Wallace, Johnny Bond, Ray Saunders, Cheryl Poole, Buddy Cagle, Glen Garrison, Billy Armstrong, Jerry Inman, Billy Mize and Johnny & Jonie Mosby.

Proceeds from the package will be used to defray operational costs of the non-profit Academy, which comprises some 350 members in the 11 Western states.

### Top Billing Inks Walker

NASHVILLE-Monument's Billy Walker has signed an exclusive management-booking deal with Top Billing, Inc., the newly-formed agency based out of Nashville's Baker Building. Walker is also associated with the Top Billing parent firm, Show Biz, Inc., which produces his syndicated TV series "Billy Walker's Country Carnival," programmed in 55 major markets across the country.

Top Billing also represents Porter Wagoner, the Wagonmasters, Dolly Parton, Mel Tillis and Speck Rhodes.

### Pennington Signs Monument Pacts

NASHVILLE-Singer-songwriter Ray Pennington has joined Monument Records, where he will serve in two capacities—those of recording artist and producer. In making the official announcement last week, Monument president Fred Foster also announced that Charlie Tallent had joined the firm as an engineer.

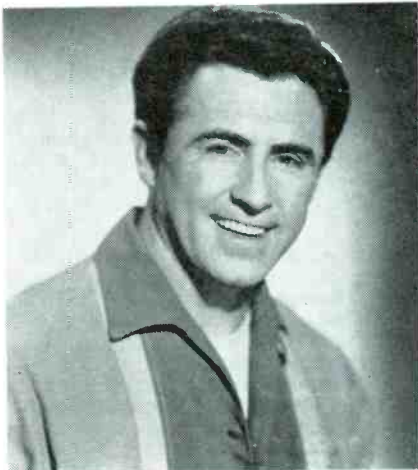
Pennington, who will work closely with Foster, and who will be pro-

duced by Foster, begins work immediately on new material and recording sessions. He will also begin production on two new acts which he has signed since joining the label, Linda Webb and Troy Seals. Sessions have already been cut with the former, a country songstress, while further sessions, in the R&B vein have been set for Seals. Plans are in the works for Pennington to cut from four to five country acts, and as many R&B performers.

Before joining Monument, Pennington produced for the Boone label, where he produced a string of chart records for Kenny Price and other Boone acts.

Tallent, a well known Nashville engineer, will operate out of the new Monument sound studios presently under construction near Nashville's Music Row, according to Monument engineer and studio project coordinator Mort Thomasson.

Prior to his move to Monument, he held a similar spot for four years at Bradley's Barn on the outskirts of Nashville. An electrical engineering major at Vanderbilt University, he was also associated with WSM Radio during his college career.



Ray Pennington

### Campbell Continues

NEW YORK—Glen Campbell, the scourge of the country LP charts, has just hit the top spot with his latest Capitol package, "Wichita Lineman." In addition, Campbell is also represented, chartwise, with such LPs as "Gentle On My Mind," "A New Place In The Sun," "By The Time I Get To Phoenix" and "Dobbie Gentry & Glen Campbell."

DEE JAYS  
FROM THE PEN OF BOB GALLION  
"YOU REALLY KNOW  
HOW TO HURT A GIRL"  
& FROM THE PEN OF GERTRUDE COX  
"ONLY A STEP FROM MY HEART"  
by JOANN JOHNSON  
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TREND RECORDS  
BOX 201 Smyrna, Ga.



BUCK STRIKES AGAIN-Proving once again that the guitar is mightier than the sword, Buck Owens was in his usual top form during the California Exposition, held recently in the state capital of Sacramento. With a backup roster consisting of his son, Buddy Allan, and Japan's Eddie Fukano, the Tiger set an all-time attendance mark for the Exposition, pulling in the fans to the tune of 10,000 per night for the two-night affair. The Exposition was held immediately prior to the California State Fair.

### AFRTS Adds Three Country Programs

NASHVILLE-Col. Robert Cranston, officer-in-charge of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, announced last week that three new radio series, featuring a country/pop format, will be added to the weekly AFRTS schedule. The programs, which will be shipped to over 370 affiliated stations around the world, will be hosted by Bob Kingsley, Tex Davis and Tex Williams.

### Dinah's Day

Dinah Shore, who recently returned to her home town of Nashville to record with the Nashville Symphony responded to an invitation to visit with the cast of the Grand Ole Opry, where she once performed at the invitation of the late George D. Hay. Shown in the photo with the famed songstress is Del Reeves, who shared his Opry spotlight with Dinah.



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