



Arlene Harden



"TOO MUCH OF A MAN"

(To Be Tied Down)

4-44783

On Columbia Records

Decca chanter Bobby Lord is currently winding up a tour through the West Coast. The tour, which began in Arizona, saw Bobby doing a series of local TV and personal appearances in the Los Angeles area. More than 6,000 fans attended a recent Buck Owens concert in Oslo, Norway, proving the growing European interest in the country sound. While in Norway, Buck and his Buckaroos taped an NRK-TV and radio program for the Norwegian network expressing their views on the acceptance of country music throughout the world. The Capitol artist and his troupe then traveled to England for appearances at the London Palladium and the Empire Theater in Liverpool before winding up the tour at the Grand Gala du Disque Festival in Amsterdam, Holland.

Don Bowman, RCA recording artist, has signed an exclusive representation contract with Key Talent of Nashville.

Columbia songwriter Carl Perkins returned to Music City last week to cut a follow-up to his recent chart disk "Restless."

Tom T. Hall will tape an appearance on the syndicated Stan Hitchcock Show this week to begin a new 13 week series. Scheduled for future appearances are Sonny James, Norro Wilson, Carl Smith and Lynn Anderson.

Conway Twitty and his Lonely Blue Boys have been set to make an appearance at the International Country and Western Festival at Wembley Pool in London on April 5 and 6.

Leon Ashley and Margie Singleton are making their second tour of Europe in conjunction with the "Pop Phillips Agency, Emerald Records, Philips Records and other European companies associated with Ashley Records. The duet is slated for personal appearances in Germany, Holland, England and Spain and they're scheduled to appear on BBC radio and TV in England.

Cecil H. Whaley, vice president of Bill Hudson and Associates, Inc., public relations and advertising firm, has resigned to assume the newly created position of public relations director for the Country Music Association. He will be in charge of all promotion, publicity and public relations activities of the association and will be working closely with Jo Walker and the public relations committee, composed of Bill Hudson, Bill Williams, Bill Denny and Hubert Long. The Hudson firm resigned the CMA account in October after Hudson was elected to the board of directors in the advertising agency category.

Jimmy Peppers, Husky Music exec, has recently signed a recording contract with Epic Records. Jimmy and Epic A&R rep., Glenn Sutton, are awaiting studio time for the first session which will consist of all Peppers-penned tunes.

Joe Melson, co-writer of the

Sonny James chart topper, "Only The Lonely," has renewed his exclusive songwriter's contract with Acuff-Rose Publications, Inc.

James L. "Pop" Phillips, C&W music promoter in West Germany, has opened an office in Columbus, Georgia. His first album release in the U.S., on the Jalap label, features the talents of Pat Patterson and is titled "Most Requested Country Songs."

The Bob Neal Agency of Nashville has set the talent for the two opening days of the DuQuoin, Illinois State Fair. Scheduled for opening night, August 23, are Waylon Jennings and his Wajlors, Jerry Lee Lewis and his band, the Osborne Brothers, the Porter Wagoner Show with Dolly Parton, and the Compton Brothers unit.

The Sunday night, August 24 program will feature the talents of Charlie Pride, Marty Robbins and his band, Merle Haggard and the Strangers with Bonnie Owens, Conway Twitty and the Lonely Blue Boys and the Compton Brothers.

Bob Neal will produce and emcee both shows. The Country Music Association has selected Los Angeles as the site of its quarterly meeting March 27-28. The announcement, by CMA executive director Jo Walker, said Los Angeles had been chosen because of the unusual amount of interest in country music on the West Coast, particularly among the radio and TV stations.

Roy Horton of the Peer Southern organization, departs later this month for a series of meetings at country music conferences and festivals in the U.S. and London. Horton's schedule includes stops in L.A. for the CMA meeting and a series of business meetings at the Peer Southern West Coast office. He also plans to attend the Blue Grass Festival in North Carolina and the country music festival in London before returning to Nashville for the taping of the Johnny Cash TV Show and the annual Four Star Golf Invitational Tournament.

Don Pierce and Hal Neely of Starday-King announced that 22 employees of Starday Records received in excess of \$380,000 in cash payouts representing full share funding of each employee's interests in Starday's profit sharing and pension retirement trust fund. The recent sale of Starday-King to Lin Broadcasting enabled Pierce to effect the payouts on a full vested basis to each employee regardless of the length of employment. Many new opportunities, increases in salary and other employee benefits have resulted for Starday-King employees resulting from the sale to Lin. Pierce reported

Cedarwood Publishing Co., Inc., has announced the signing of Cecil Null to an exclusive writers contract. Null's "Then I'll Stop Going For You" hit the airwaves last week via an Epic release by Jim & Jesse.



Staying On

RCA's lovely country chanteuse, Connie Smith, is obviously very happy with her label and doesn't plan to make any changes. In the photo at left, she's shown signing her new RCA recording contract, as her personal manager, Bob Neal, and her executive producer, Bob Ferguson, look on with approval.