



CashBox Country Music Report

MGM Re-Inks Williams, Glasers, Wooley; Tillis, Walker, Morris Join Diskery

NASHVILLE — MGM Records has re-signed three of its country acts — Hank Williams, Jr., Tompall & the Glaser Brothers and Sheb Wooley (also known as Ben Colder) — and has signed three new country acts — Mel Tillis, Billy Walker and Lamar Morris. Williams is one of the top country stars. Tompall and the Glasers, Mel Tillis and Billy Walker are all heavy names in the C&W world. Sheb Wooley is known for his comedy. Lamar Morris is a newcomer.

Mike Curb, vice president of MGM, Incorporated, and president of MGM Records, flew from the West Coast to Nashville to announce and sign the artists on February 18. The acts, all of whom, with the exception of Tompall & the Glaser Brothers, are managed by Buddy Lee, will be included in a national publicity, promotion and exploitation campaign in conjunction with their latest single and album releases.

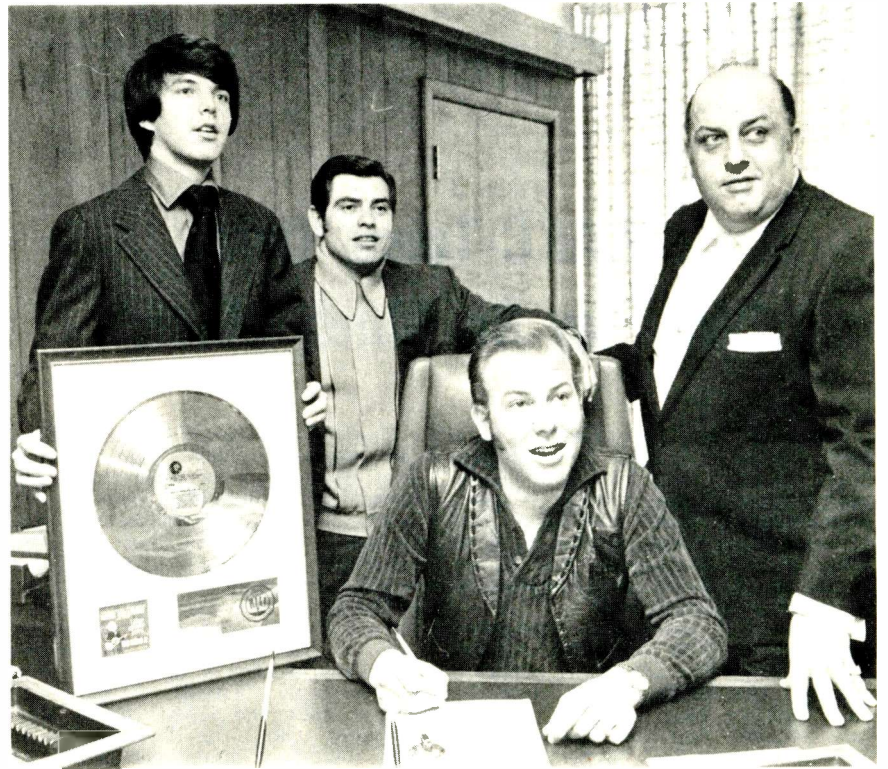
First on the agenda will include a special promotion for the Hank Williams, Jr. album of "Sunday Morning" which will be tied in with Hank, Jr.'s new TV Show "Sun Country" now being tested in two markets. KTXL in Sacramento and KSAT in San Antonio. Additional markets which will be announced later will also tie in with the artist's new album. Plans call for slides on the TV screen showing a background of Hank, Jr.'s "Sunday Morning" album with an over-lay of lettering announcing playing time and

date. Special posters for record shops are being prepared which will mutually advertise Hank, Jr.'s TV Show and the "Sunday Morning" album. In addition, photos of Hank, Jr. taken on location in Cypress Gardens, Florida, where the series was produced, will be sent to TV and record review editors on national magazines and newspapers as well as wire services throughout the country. Plans are also being formulated to tie in with national advertisers who will sponsor the TV Show. Streamers and other point-of-purchase display material plugging the artist, the TV Show and the album will be used.

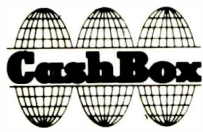
New albums and singles by Mel Tillis, Billy Walker, Lamar Morris and Sheb Wooley will be announced jointly by Mike Curb and Buddy Lee.

Tompall & the Glaser Brothers have just completed the soundtrack album for the MGM film ... tick ... tick ... tick ... which will be released March 1. A single titled "All That Keeps Ya Goin'" from the album, is the theme from the picture and it is being rushed as a special release to tie in with current play dates of the picture.

Tompall & the Glaser Brothers are currently on a large-scale personal appearance tour doing one nighters across the country. They will promote and publicize both their single and album in the various cities that coincide with their personal appearance tour and the opening of ... tick ... tick ...



WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS BOY — MGM Records was anxious to re-sign ace country chanter Hank Williams, Jr., and the star was glad to put his name on the dotted line. The artist, pen in hand, is shown with (left to right) Mike Curb, president of MGM Records, who is presenting the artist with the RIAA gold album award for the soundtrack album of "Your Cheatin Heart," in which Hank starred in the role of his famous father; B. J. McElwee, Nashville promo man for Transcontinental Distributing, which distributes MGM in many parts of the country; and Buddy Lee, manager of Hank and head of Buddy Lee Attractions.



CashBox Country Roundup

Jack Stapp, president and founder of Tree International, recently delivered a lecture on "The Business of Music Business" to Nashville junior executives at Aquinas College ... The Shelby Singleton Corporation presented a midnight blue cadillac to Mike Lawing of Berto's Record Distributors in Charlotte, N.C. on his election as "Promotion Man of the Year" for his efforts on behalf of the organization ... Hubert Long, president, Hubert Long International, reports "Country Crossroads," a 15-minute radio show starring Leroy Van Dyke and presented by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is receiving fantastic nation-wide audience reception. Since January, more than 350 stations have taken advantage of the show, which is offered upon request by the commission. "Country Crossroads" features Bill Mack as announcer and Van Dyke as host and consists of interviews with various artists, on-the-spot reports and "Country Scrapbook," a feature spotlighting a different country great each week. The highly successful show is one of 40 non-sectarian public service radio and television programs produced weekly and distributed by the Southern Baptist Radio and Televi-

sion Commission ... Hickory Records' Don Gibson recently taped the syndicated "Mid-Western Hayride Show" in Cincinnati. Gibson's latest release is "Don't Take All Your Loving" ...

Monument Records' "Billy Walker Salutes the Country Music Hall of Fame" album has been awarded "Best Selection of the Decade" according to Rafael Alicea Vallejo, president of the Nashville Sound of Puerto Rico. Billy Walker's just released single is "Darlin' Days" ... Chart recording artist Dianne Leigh has been named Canada's #1 Female Country Singer for the fifth consecutive year by RPM Magazine, a Canadian music trade publication. The Canadian lass is a regular on the Carl Smith syndicated TV Show, which covers most of Canada and is now being shown in a number of U.S. markets ... Tommy Cash will be speaking of cash for the Dial Finance Corp., on stations throughout the South and West beginning in March. Tommy cut the jingles and commercial plugs for the company recently under the direction of a Chicago ad firm. Tommy's recent hit on Epic is "Six White Horses" ... An estimated 15,000 were in attendance when Conway Twitty and his Twitty Birds, along with Ernest Tubb

and the Texas Troubadours and Peggy Sue performed Saturday night, February 14th at what is billed as "The World's Largest Dance" in Houston's Astro Hall. Presented yearly by Radio Station KIKK in Houston as a preview to the annual Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo with all proceeds going to worthy charities in the Houston area, the entire four hour Dance was recorded by Decca Records with VP Owen Bradley in Houston supervising the recording operation ...

March 20 is the date set by Soundville of Houston, Texas for opening of their new studio facilities. Execs Johnny Nash and Marilyn Von Steiger in Music City recently shopping around for personnel to staff new facilities ... Johnny Cash, along with his wife, June Carter Cash, has been named to serve as State Honorary Chairman of the United Cerebral Palsy of Tennessee Telethon to be aired March 7 in Nashville ... Imperial's Penny DeHaven guested recently on Jim Ed Brown's syndicated "Country Place". Penny's hot from the press "I Feel Fine" is country version of the Beatles' tune ... Future appearances by Skeeter Davis and George Hamilton IV will be billed as "The Skeeter Davis and George Hamilton IV Show," according to Joe Taylor of the Joe Taylor Artist Agency, who further states that negotiations are underway for an African tour for the RCA artists ... Chart Records president Slim Williamson reports that single sales reached an all time high for his company in January, exceeding any previous months by more than 20 per cent ... Jim Nesbitts' "Runnin' Bare" is currently the hottest item in the Chart catalog, although some country stations are refusing to play it, describing it as "a little too risqué" ... Joe Moscheo, pianist and man-

ager of the Imperials Quartet has announced the signing of the Imperials to appear with Jimmy Dean on the nationally syndicated Mike Douglas Show. Taping is scheduled for March 25, 26 and 27. Moscheo further announced that after a tremendous success in Las Vegas with Elvis Presley the Imps have been signed to again appear with Presley. The next appearance is scheduled for Houston, Texas and the Astrodome February 25 thru March 1 ... Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters have signed a recording contract with Canaan Records of Waco, Texas ... Songstress Georgia Gibbs, who recently signed an exclusive recording contract with Starday-King, will be visiting Nashville the first week in March to cut a country music album ... The Tokyo Happy Coats, five lovely young Japanese girls, were in Cincinnati recently for a series of recording sessions at the Starday-King studios with producer Darrell Glenn. The five young ladies not only sing but also play a total of 19 instruments between them. After the waxing is completed, the Tokyo Happy Coats head for Las Vegas and a six-weeks engagement at the New Frontier.

Following three months of experimental country and western programming, KXOA-FM Radio in Sacramento, California, in response to listener requests, is increasing its broadcast schedule from 18 to 24 hours.

Jimmy Case has established a new talent/management agency, Showcase Talent, at 1057 W. Broad St., Suite 23, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. Red Wilcox, former C&W manager and deejay, is general manager. Case himself will join Showcase's roster after completion of his current schedule of appearances at the American Military Clubs in Vietnam.



Setting It Up

William Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys Gospel Group and promoter J.G. Whitfield of Pensacola, Florida, have named Nashville as the site for the first International Gospel Festival to be held July 10-11 at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium. Named as sponsor for the festival is the Firemen's Benefit Fund, Wade Hampton, Director. Top gospel talent from the United States and several foreign countries will convene for the two day gathering.