

Country PREMIER EDITION LEGENDS

MAGAZINE

The CAT Network! Summer 2013
www.catcountry.org

**THE MOUNT
RUSHMORE
OF COUNTRY!**

LET'S DEBATE!

**HANK and the
Billboard Charts**

**A Tribute to
George Jones**

**Cat Country
Network Debuts**

**Retired and
Unretired Alabama,
The Possom,
and King George**

**Cowbells, 50,000 Watts
and Brad Paisley Part I**

**MEET ROWDY YATES
AND MORE!**

Join Cat Country for our Texas Country Showdown

Saturday August 17th at the historic Gem Theater in Walsh, CO at 7 pm.
Register now by visiting catcountry.org or email fishfm1@hotmail.com

The legends of today.

As the Texaco Country Showdown's search for excellence has grown, so has the number of artists who host and perform at the competition on all levels. Stars like Barbara Mandrell, Kenny Rogers, Lorrie Morgan, Crystal Gayle, Lee Greenwood, Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Tanya Tucker, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, The Oak Ridge Boys, Billy Ray Cyrus, Sara Evans and many others are part of this long tradition of helping new artists on their road to stardom.



Barbara Mandrell



Kris Kristofferson



Willie Nelson



Montgomery Gentry

The stars of tomorrow.

Country music's largest talent contest is back for its 30th and most exciting year ever. From its early years through its rise to national prominence, the Texaco Country Showdown has offered a chance at stardom to some of the finest young talent in communities across America. And who knows what 2011 will bring? The next Martina McBride or Garth Brooks may be waiting in the wings, ready to claim the title: "Best New Act in Country Music."



2010 Finalist
Reggie Shaw



Kassie Depalva sings with some of the 2010 contestants

The tradition continues.

For twenty nine years, the Texaco Country Showdown continues its tradition of supporting live country music and offering new country music talent across America the chance to launch their musical careers. With a Grand Prize of \$100,000 and cash prizes at various levels, the Texaco Country Showcase is the best high stakes competition in country music with a uniform judging system.



Tanya Tucker



Minnie Pearl and Loretta Lynn



Kenny Rogers

How it works.

The Texaco Country Showdown is a four-level competition beginning in the spring where contestants enter at their country music radio station. State competitions are held in the summer at fairs, theme parks and clubs for a \$1000 prize. The five Regional events take place in the fall. The Regional prize is an all-expense paid trip to the National Final to compete for the Grand Prize of \$100,000 and the "Best New Act In Country Music" title. So if you think you've got what it takes to be the next winner, visit your local Texaco station and pick up your entry form today. You can learn more at texacocountryshowdown.com or at your local country radio station.



2010 Finalist Greg Scudder



2010 Finalist Carin Mari



2010 Finalist Kendall Phillips



Host - LeAnn Rimes with 2010 Grand Prize Winner Jaclyn North



The road to stardom starts here. \$100,000 Grand Prize

How it's all made possible.

Every year, over 50,000 new artists perform at more than 500 shows throughout the country. Promoted by over 450 local radio stations and Texaco, these shows give budding artists from communities all across our great country a shot at making their dream a reality. Texaco exemplifies everything that the Country Showdown is about - pride in our communities, our heritage, our traditions and the spirit of the American Dream. As a result of Texaco's commitment, over \$300,000 is cash is awarded each year to struggling artists as they follow their road to stardom.



Keep humming along

Texaco Country Showdown Headquarters:
Special Promotions Inc. 63 Music Square East,
Nashville, TN 37203 Phone (615) 321-5130

TexacoCountryShowdown.com



Publisher/Editor:
Chris Lash

Staff Writers:
Michael J. Daniels, Uncle Johnny,
Dave Heath, Ed Guy

Photographs:
Personal Collection of Ed Guy
(Hank Williams photos)

Designer:
Sharon Liguori
KD and Associates

For Input and Advertising:
24 Angela Drive
Palm Coast, FL 32164
Email: fishfm1@hotmail.com,
Phone: 724-516-8885
Website: www.catcountry.org



About the Cover:

The cover designed by Sharon Liguori, features a photo of Hank Williams from the personal collection of Ed Guy. If there were a Mt. Rushmore of Country Music, who should be on it?

TABLE OF ★ CONTENTS



5 Hank and the Billboard Charts

Each month we'll feature a story about the legendary Hank Williams Sr. This month we look at his country chart successes.

6 The Mount Rushmore of Country, Let's Debate

Hank Williams takes his place on our imaginary mountain, but who else belongs there?

9 Cowbells, 5,000 watts and Brad Paisley

The start of a series on live country music radio shows, focusing on the Wheeling Jamboree, in Wheeling, WV.

10 Retired and Unretired

We showcase Alabama, and George Strait. And remember George Jones at the same time.

12 Rowdy Yates

One of country radio's top disc jockeys returns to host the show he created!

13 Cat Country Radio Network Launches

A radio guy tries to retire, and can't. The network fuels his passion.

14 A Tribute to George Jones

The Possum died in April, we remember his entire career.

FROM BROADWAY!

A TRIBUTE TO *The*
SENSATIONAL
 RADIO RECORDING
Star

Hank

AND MY HONKY TONK HEROES!

WILLIAMS

"MR. LOVESICK BLUES"

Starring
**JASON
 PETTY**

with
**HIS
 ENTIRE...**

**COMING TO THE
 FLAGLER
 PLAYHOUSE
 FOR TWO SHOWS!**

GRAND

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

2:00PM AND 7:00PM

TICKETS GO ON SALE JUNE 1!

SHOW from NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

HATCH SHOW FRONT - NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - EST. 1879

RELIVE
 THE MUSIC
 AND **HEAR**
 THE STORY
 OF **THE**
 ONE-AND-ONLY
HANK
 WILLIAMS!

ALL
SEATS
 ARE **\$30**
 AND WILL
SELL OUT
FAST!

BUY YOUR TICKETS
 AT THE
 FLAGLER PLAYHOUSE
BOX OFFICE
 386-586-0773

PRESENTED BY



CATCOUNTRY.ORG

Hank Williams and The Billboard Charts

By Ed Guy

H

Hank Williams established an amazing 41 songs on the Billboard Charts. He wrote 25 of the songs and co-wrote another five. Others, including his mentor Fred Rose, wrote 11 of the remaining songs. The performance credit on all by one of Hank's MGM Records was Hank Williams and His Drifting Cowboys. One of the "Non-Session" songs, "Please Don't Let Me Love You", which charted in 1955 was credited to Hank Williams and His Guita.

The Sterling Record's issue of "Never Again" was listed as "Hank Williams and The Country Boys, but was changed to Drifting Cowboys when it was re-issued by MGM.

From 1947 until January 1953, MGM, in keeping with industry practices, designated the most promising song on the "A" side, while relegating the "weaker" song to the "B" side. 24 of these charted songs were "A" sides and 11 were "B" sides. MGM 10461 (Kaw-Liga & Your Cheatin' Heart) was the last recording of Hank's to indicate "A" and "B" sides. It is interesting to consider some of Hank's "weaker" songs that became "B" Sides including some of his classic songs: "Cold, Cold Heart", "I Can't Help It", and "Your Cheatin' Heart"!

Ten MGM Records by Hank became two-sided hits. These included:

- "Lovesick Blues"/"Never Again"
- "Lost Highway"/"You're Gonna Change"
- "Long Gone Lonesome Blues"/"My Son Calls Another Man Daddy"
- "They'll Never Take Her Love From Me"/"Why Should We Try Anymore"
- "Moanin' The Blues"/"Nobody's Lonesome For Me"
- "Dear John"/"Cold, Cold Heart"
- "Howlin' At The Moon"/"I Can't Help It"
- "Lonesome Whistle"/"Crazy Heart"
- "Settin' The Woods On Fire"/"You Win Again"
- "Kaw-liga"/"Your Cheatin' Heart"

Due to the musicians' strike, Hank did not have a recording session for a year. His fifth session was 11/6/47 and the sixth session was not until 11/7/48.

From the beginning of 1949 to the end of 1953, Hank Williams was well represented on the Billboard Charts. He often had three or four songs on the charts, but during the week of 10/8/49, he surpassed himself with five songs on Billboard simultaneously! Hank measured his success by consulting Billboard. While in Montgomery, he would go to Cohen's Amusement Company (Phonograph/Record Store) to buy this weekly trade magazine.

Hank's first recording session for Sterling Records on 12/4/46 produced "Never Again" which, after the rights to the masters were purchased by MGM in July 1948, became Side "B" for "Lovesick Blues". "Never Again" also charted for two weeks rising to the sixth position. The first song recorded by Hank for MGM on 4/21/47 was "Move It On Over" which was his first charted song. It was on the Billboard Charts for three weeks and reached No. 4.

One session on 1/9/50 produced four songs and they all became Billboard hits: "Long Gone Lonesome Blues," "My Son Calls Another Man Daddy",

"Why Don't You Love Me", and "Why Should We Try Anymore".

Hank died on 1/1/53 and had eight posthumous releases that became Billboard hits.

The last four songs by Hank that reached the Charts ("Weary Blues From Waitin'", "Please Don't Let Me Love You", "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", and "Why Don't You Love Me") were not regular issues by MGM Records.

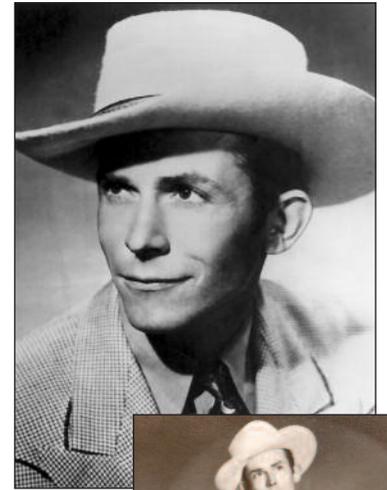
The first two songs were "non-session" recordings which were overdubbed in 1953 and 1955, respectively.

The second two songs were only released as 45 RPM singles since 78 RPM records were discontinued during 1957 in the United States. These songs were re-issues with new background overdubbed.

"I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" was recorded on 8/30/49 but was determined to be "weaker" than "My Bucket's Got A Hole In It" so it became the "B" side. This classic seemed to be a "sleeper" until over 13 years after Hank died when it finally became a charted hit song.

"Why Don't You Love Me" charted twice – in 1950 and 1976. It reached No. 1 in 1950 and stayed on the charts for 25 weeks. In 1976, it was on the charts for seven weeks and reached No. 61. It was issued three times as MGM 10696, 12611, and 14849. The last issue was only on 45 RPM and, in fact, was the last regular issue of Hank's 45 singles in the U.S.

"I Won't Be Home No More" was recorded on July 11, 1952. It was not released until the middle of 1953 and first charted on 7/25/53. A special and rare Promotional 78 (MGM 53-S-313) was released to Disc Jockeys only but not for resale to the public. Ira Peck, the Editor of Dell Publications, introduces Hank. (Jimmy Swan is on the reverse side with "The Last Letter", a tribute to Hank Williams.) It seems that this song, along with "I'll Never Get Out Of This World Alive" was a fitting farewell from Hank to all his fans.



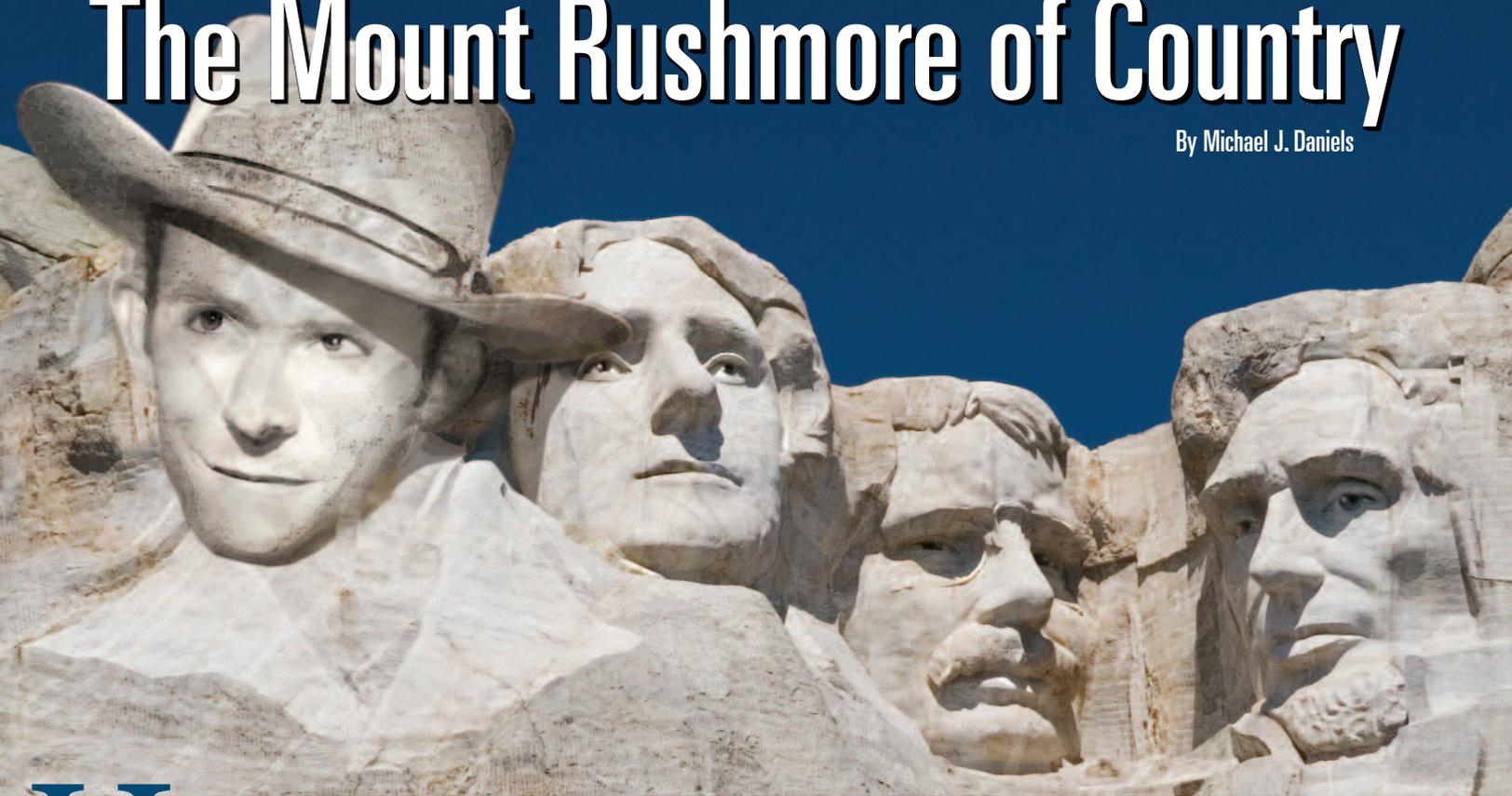
Photos: From the Collection of Ed Guy



Ed Guy is the largest dealer of Hank Williams' recordings and memorabilia. He has been in business since 1973 and ships mail orders throughout the world. Ed Guy, Hank Williams Collectibles, PO Box 350447, Palm Coast, FL 32135 (386) 283-4788 E-Mail: danaptguys@cox.net

The Mount Rushmore of Country

By Michael J. Daniels



He did not live to his 30th birthday and died 60 years ago this year.

However, as we place the faces on The Mount Rushmore of Country, is there any one more synonymous with classic country music than Hiram King Williams.

We all know him as Hank Williams Sr. In those short 30 years, he would go on to start his country music career in his early teens and be remembered as one of the most enduring country music writers and singers.

Williams had dozens of songs that made the top ten and reached number one on the charts more than 10 times during his career. When someone dies at an early age, it leaves folks to wonder “what might have been.”

One can only imagine how many hits Hank Sr. might have racked up had he lived a normal lifespan. However, an artist’s true impact cannot necessarily be measured by their success on the music charts.

So it is with Hank Williams Sr. There is not enough space to detail all those who say the legendary artist influenced them. This list includes the Beatles and Johnny Cash.

Williams’ influence on his own son and beyond could be called a family tradition. Hank Williams Jr.’s career may end up being twice as long as his father’s lifespan. He started at the age of 15 in 1964 covering one of his father’s hits.

Shortly after his death, Hank Sr.’s daughter came into this world. She did not grow up with the Williams’ name but eventually turned to a singing career.

Still later Hank Jr.’s son, Hank Williams III started in the business and branched out into other genres of music. The impact Hank Sr. left on country music is remarkable considering his short time on earth.



The next country legend on The Mount Rushmore of Country belongs to the late renowned George Jones. Affectionately known as the

Poosum, he passed away in late April of this year.

His career began in the 1950s. He remained active until shortly before his death. He embarked on a final tour billed as “The Grand Tour”. The final concert was to have been in November. However, Jones became hospitalized in Nashville and died about a week later.

During his career, Jones racked up in excess of a dozen No. 1 hits and released about 150 singles. Jones appeared on country hits in five consecutive decades and scored number one hits from during the 50s through the 80s.

If anyone could write and sing about the subject matter of many country songs, it had to be Jones. He lived a tumultuous life. Jones married four times and struggled with drinking and drug addiction. However, Jones was clean and sober during the last years. His was certainly a life that encompasses many of the elements of the classic country songs he wrote or recorded.

Jones was a member of the Grand Ole Opry since the mid 50s

and was one of the longest members of the Nashville venue.

Jones experienced a rebirth thanks to a hit in 1980. “He Stopped Loving Her Today” was his signature song released more than 25 years into his career. The song is often at or near the top of any list of all time great country songs. Bobby Braddock and Curly Putnam won song of the year honors from the Country Music Association in both 1980 and 1981 for the song. Jones scored the Male Vocalist Award those same two years. The song also won single of the year by the CMA and won a Grammy for best Male Country Vocal in 1980.

Among other honors, Jones entered the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992. Jones gained recognition as one of the greatest contributors to country music during his lifetime. He received the U.S. Medal of Arts from the National Endowment of the Arts in 2002, and he received Kennedy Center honors.

Those, who had the opportunity to see one of his final concerts or any performance during his career saw a

legend that broke the mold. He was and is the one and only George Jones.



Next on The Mount Rushmore of Country, the Man In Black takes what many would say is his rightful place. Johnny Cash died 12 years ago this September. Before his death, he left us a treasure of musical memories.

The Arkansas native started his career in the mid 1950s. His career would continue right up his last year on earth.

His early career intertwined with other legendary performers a stable of artists at Sun Studios. A 1956 jam session included Cash with Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis. A recording of the event became a record release titled *Million Dollar Quartet*. That rare teaming of talent later became a stage musical under the same name as the recording sessions.

Cash was already scoring number one songs on the Sun label by the time of the *Million Dollar Quartet* session. He hit the top during the summer of 1956 with "I Walk The Line". Cash would continue to have hits on the Sun label before switching to Columbia near the end of 1958. His first single released on that label also went to number one.

Cash would go on to release nearly 100 albums and more than 150 singles during his career. He married the love of his life, June Carter Cash who wrote the classic Ring of Fire. Cash took that song to No. 1 in 1963. The pair also sang together on the classic tune Jackson, and "If I Were A Carpenter".

He also had other collaborations including the Highway Men effort that brought Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson together. Still later, he returned to Sun Studios in Nashville and recorded with Roy Orbison, and original *Million Dollar Quartet* members, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Cash also embarked on an acting career in the 1960s. Later in his career he played historical characters Frank James and Davy Crockett. He has also been portrayed in the movies. Mark Collie played him in a 1988 short film. Later, a movie about his life titled *Walk The Line* enjoyed considerable box office success in 2005.

Cash received numerous awards including the rarity of a being a member of three different music hall of fame organizations. He is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Cash and Hank Williams Sr. are two of five artists in all three Hall of Fames. Surely, being part of that exclusive club is a crowning achievement in the career of the Man In Black.



Now, the final of the four gentlemen featured on the imaginary Mount Rushmore of Country Music.

George Strait, born in Texas during the early 1950s, entered the world just months before the end of Hank Williams Sr.'s life. It was also not long before the start of the careers of the other

two artists highlighted. Strait credited both Hank Sr. and George Jones with being big influences on his musical style.

Strait released his first hit single in the spring of 1981. He was almost 29 at the time of that release, and the hits did not stop over the next three decades. He has amassed a record amount of number one songs (nearly 60. His latest single was in the top 10 as this magazine went to publication. Overall, Strait has released more than 90 singles and only a handful have not reached the top ten.

He also holds the record for the most albums reaching number one and the most gold platinum and multi-platinum LPs in the history of country music. Strait also ranks high on those lists for all types of music. His album sales are closing in on 70 million.

He has received numerous awards. The Academy of Country Music named him artist of the decade for the 2000s. Strait gained entry into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006. This happened while he was continuing his chart-topping success. Billboard Magazine named him the top country artist of the past 25 years by Billboard Magazine in 2010. Earlier this year, he received the Country Radio Broadcasters Achievement Award.

Strait is now in the midst of a farewell tour. He has also released his latest album in May. Strait may no longer actively tour at the conclusion of his current set of dates, but country fans are hopeful there are still years of recorded hits ahead for the man from Poteet, TX.



The revelation of the four faces on The Mount Rushmore of Country in this article cannot be considered definitive. It is simply a starting point of those artists that one might think of automatically off the top of your head if asked who belonged on such a mountain.

Many country music fans could make a case for other classic and even some more recent artists.

For example, we have not even

considered the great ladies of country music such as Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette and more recently Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire. Their resumes are

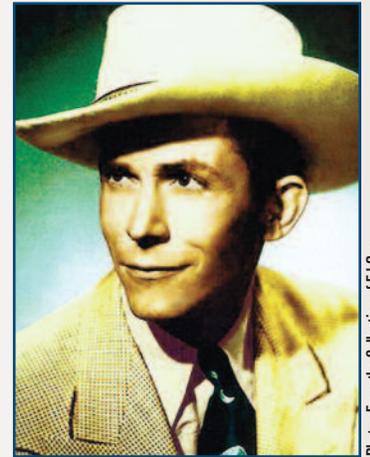


Photo: From the Collection of Ed Guy

full of country hits and other achievements.

What about groups such as Alabama or the Oak Ridge Boys? Could room be found for either of those iconic bands on The Mount Rushmore of Country?

There are numerous other solo artists that might be considered just as worthy as those we've detailed. Kenny Rogers, Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings certainly have had a monumental impact on country music through the ages. More recently, Garth Brooks has achieved record sales of more than 130 million copies. He is easily the best-selling country artist in history.

However, with all the achievements noted here we have not mentioned early pioneers such as Bob Wills and Jimmy Rodgers. Neither can be excluded from consideration as two of the most enduring faces of country music. Rodgers had been dubbed the father of country music. Wills gained recognition as the king of western swing.

Now, Cat Country fans, it is your turn. The question is which artists would make your list if you had to pick the four faces that belong on The Mount Rushmore of Country. Let the debate begin!

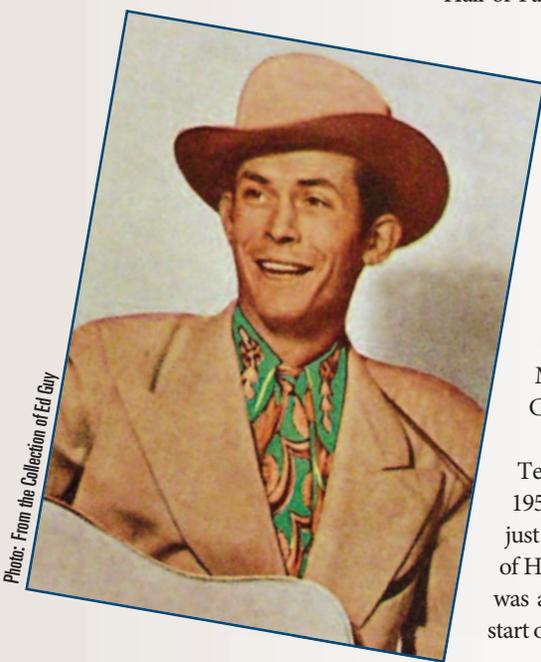


Photo: From the Collection of Ed Guy



Welcome to the



Hank Williams, Sr. Boyhood Home & Museum

334-376-2396, 127 Rose St., 36033, Open M-Sat. 10-4, Admission charged. Group rates. PC, TC, CC.



**Only house remaining
that Hank Williams
lived in prior to
Nashville stardom.
Opened as
museum in 1993.
Memorabilia, artifacts,
pictures, and
personal belongings.**



Goodland, KS

Kansas Begins Here

Located on the topside of Kansas at the intersection of Interstate 70 and Kansas Highways 24 and 27, Goodland is a great place to live, work, worship, and play!

- Sunflower van Gogh Painting
- Mile Long Brick Main Street
- Air & Rail Service
- Carnegie Art Center
- Northwest Kansas Technical College
- Economic Development Opportunities
- National Weather Service
- Steever Water Park
- America's First Helicopter
- Industrial Park
- 18 Hole Golf Course

We're way out there...in a Good way!

Goodland offers something for everyone.

City of Goodland - Sherman County

P.O. Box 927 • 925 Main St. • Goodland, Kansas 67735

785-890-3515 • Toll Free: 888-824-4222

E-mail: cvb@goodlandnet.com • Website: visitgoodland.com

Cowbells, 50,000 Watts & Brad Paisley

By Dave Heath / Executive Producer & Pres. Wheeling Jamboree



Overall-clad farmers would drive for hours traveling hundreds of miles to sit in the plush red seats of a 1920's Beaux-Arts Theatre and would shake dirty old cowbells with delight at the end of each song. Each cowbell had its own distinct sound and family back home recognized that their loved ones had made it to Wheeling [in the northern panhandle of the State of West Virginia] safely, when they picked out the sound of Bessie the Cows locator bell coming from the speaker of their Cathedral tube radio!

This uniquely and quaint tradition continues to endear audiences to the second oldest surviving weekly radio country music stage show in our nation. The show which started in 1933 has been known as the World's Original Wheeling Jamboree as well as the Mid-Night Jamboree and the WWVA Jamboree. In 1969, it became known as the more metropolitan sounding Jamboree USA. Today, it's simply known as the Wheeling Jamboree. Wheeling's was not the first of the popular barn dance shows to hit the crackling airwaves when the technological wonder of broadcast radio burst on to the scene. That ground breaking honor was first heralded in 1924 by "The WLS Barn Dance" in Chicago, followed in 1925 by "The WSM Barn Dance" (renamed "The Grand Ole

Opry") then in 1933 "The WWVA Jamboree" now The Wheeling Jamboree. These were the BIG three to set the standard for the hundreds that followed. Each of these shows started in the studio sound stages and shortly migrated to become full stage production radio shows. With each of these shows shifting to various auditoriums in their respective markets to not only accommodate the live audience but for financial and logistic reasons. Even the immensely popular Louisiana Hayride the show that launched the career of Elvis Presley, then the Ozark Jubilee became step children of these earlier shows after World War II.

The Wheeling Jamboree became a national institution. In its first 20 years and brought more than 1,750,000 fans to Wheeling for jamboree performances. Countless other millions heard it on the radio. Listener surveys showed response from fans in 538 counties in 20 states and Canada. In its first 20 years, thousands of pieces of mail were received every week from almost every state in the nation. In the early 1950's, it was popular for Jamboree entertainers to make personal appearances outside of Wheeling. In 1952 alone, Jamboree acts made 761 personal appearances in 436 cities and towns before a combined audience of 536,789 people.

For the 25th anniversary in



1974 Photo of some Country Legends during a Wheeling Jamboree Cast Reunion — INCLUDES: Hank Snow, Bill Carver, Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper, Grandpa Jones who started at the Jamboree in 1936, Shug Fisher of Disney Classics, Lee Moore and the Royal Couple of Country Music, Doc & Chickie Williams

1958, as had been the case five years earlier, the Jamboree show was featured on the CBS show, *Saturday Night Country Style*. That nationwide salute was only part of the acclaim being given the Jamboree locally and nationally. By December 2012 it is estimated that 10.5 Million Visitors have traveled to Wheeling just to see the

Jamboree. Coming in PART 2, — How Brad Paisley, launched his professional career on the Wheeling Jamboree.

More Info:
www.WheelingJamboree.org

Alabama, and King George

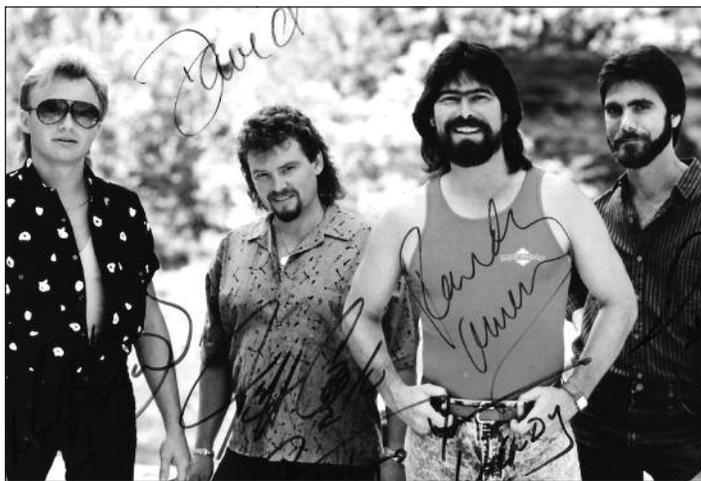
By Chris Lash

We've all seen the emotional, sometimes over the top, retirement speeches from athletes who for whatever reason reached the point of retirement. They cry or wipe back tears, and give long detailed retirement speeches, while wondering what their going to do the rest of their lives.

In country music, sometimes all we see or hear is a short story in USA Today or on a website, when one of the people we grew up listening to on the radio announces they are done. With little fanfare, they disappear from concert stages, or from making records.

Their are cases, for mostly money reasons, that athletes and music performers alike Unretire. Why? Because they miss the noise of the crowds, or from being in a recording studio? Maybe their popularity is still strong, and fans demand it! In 2013, we've seen a legend announce his final concert at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville only to die on April 26th before his grand tour had started, another country hit king wraps up his long two year farewell from touring, while the biggest country music group of all time, goes back on the road to celebrate their 40th Anniversary.

In the case of George Strait, who this year hit a milestone that may never be broken, wraps up his two-year farewell in 2014. His 60 number one songs, will grow, because while he plans to leave the road, he won't stop recording chart topping songs. "As far as the touring goes, I've decided that I'm not



Alabama



George Strait

going to tour anymore, after 2014." said Strait, 61, who broke into country music big-time in 1981, during Ronald Reagan's first term as President.

"Don't think I'm retiring because I'm not," he continued. "I'm still going to make records, as long as the Universal Music Group will let me. I'm going to write. If when I quit touring, if a special event comes up that I want to do, I'm going to do it." Born in Poteet, Texas, and reared in rural Pearsall, near San Antonio, Strait played in a rock band in high school. While in the Army, he began performing country music, a style perfectly suited to his earnest, gentle voice. His move to country music mainstream was hastened by Music Row veteran Erv Woolsey, who became his manager and guided him to a recording contract in 1981.

Strait's sound never strayed far from his 1981 debut *Strait Country*. Over the following three decades, his songs featured plenty of fiddle and steel guitar, and in a little way, rock-inspired guitar solos. As modern country music tended towards bluster, Strait traded on restraint. Strait has sold nearly 70 million albums in the United States alone, including 33-million selling albums. He's the 12th-best selling artist of any genre, according to the Recording Industry Association of America, and he has scored a record 21 No. 1 country albums.

"I had in the back of my mind that when I turned 60 it might be the time to start thinking about getting off the road," he said. "I also didn't want to book a tour and nobody came. It was important to me to pick that time, rather than go that long when something like that

started happening. I believe I made the right decision. I hope I did. Only time will tell. In 2016, I might say, "What a dummy. And if that's the case maybe I'll reconsider. But at this particular time, I'm pretty sure I won't." So while the cowboy might ride away from an arena near you, he won't be leaving your favorite radio station any time soon!

The stories alone about "The Possum" George Jones were legendary in amongst themselves. At one point in his career he was known as "No Show Jones" for missing concerts. And while his age had taken a toll on his voice, there is no doubt he left a mark in country music that will never be duplicated. George Jones, often referred to as the "the greatest living country singer" passed away on Friday, April 26th in a Nashville hospital.





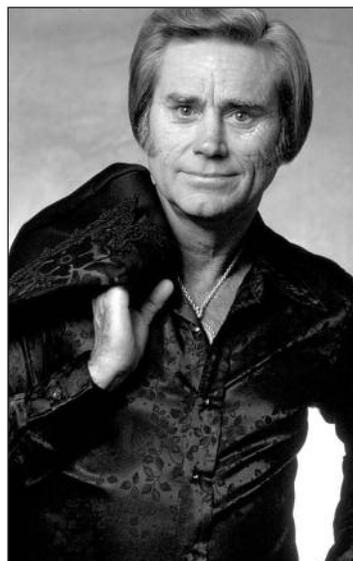
Alabama

(See Bio) He had begun his final grand tour, but didn't complete it with his untimely death. The icon's hits, included "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair", "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes", "White Lightning" and "He Stopped Loving Her Today"

In the 1980's, you couldn't turn on a radio station and not hear an Alabama song. It didn't matter if it was a country station, an adult contemporary station or even a Top 40 station. They changed country music at a time it needed it. Their shows were more like rock concerts, long before Garth Brooks reinvented the trend. The super group has come out of retirement before, aiding victims of the tornadoes that struck their home state and namesake in 2011. Earlier this year, their 40th Anniversary "Back to the Bowery Tour" began at the original nightclub in Myrtle Beach, where

they honed their craft, become making it big.

Long before groups like the Dixie Chicks, Rascal Flatts and Lady Antebellum were old enough to



George Jones

hold a guitar, the quartet known as Alabama was laying road for countless country-rock crossover acts. And they did it at a time in the late 1970s and early '80s, when solo artists (Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn) were all the rage.

Formed by cousins Randy Owen (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Teddy Gentry (bass guitar, background vocals) and Jeff Cook (lead guitar, fiddle, keyboards), the band began in their hometown of Fort Payne, Ala., under the name Wildcountry. In an effort to get discovered, they moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., where they landed a gig as the house band at beach bar called the Bowery. It was there — playing for tips six nights a week, seven summers straight — that band members honed the razor-sharp vocal harmonies for which they became known.

Alabama went on to collect 21 consecutive No.1 hits (including "Love in the First Degree," "Mountain Music" and the perennial holiday favorite "Christmas in Dixie", making it one of the most successful bands in country music history.

Alabama released more than 20 albums in the 1980s and '90s, selling more than 70 million copies and writing more than 30 chart-topping songs. Band members capitalized on their success by launching numerous entrepreneurial ventures in the '90s, including the successful Alabama Theatre in Myrtle Beach and a chain of Alabama Grill restaurants (Myrtle Beach, Nashville and Pigeon Forge, Tenn.). In 2003, after 30 years together, the group went on what was to be its farewell tour.

Of course, Alabama didn't go away completely. In 2005, the group was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. In 2008, other members split with longtime drummer Mark Herndon during a very public lawsuit over alleged payment



George Strait

discrepancies. And in 2010, Alabama returned to the studio for the first time in 10 years to record "Are You Sure Hank Done It That Way" for a Waylon Jennings tribute album.

But it was a 2011 reunion to record "Old Alabama" with Brad Paisley and a live performance of the song at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas that ultimately led to the band's first full-fledged tour in a decade. In subsequent interviews, co-founder Jeff Cook said that the band regretted having ended its 2003 farewell tour in North Dakota, rather than their native Alabama. After live performances at the 2012 Stagecoach Festival in California and the We Fest in Minnesota, there seemed to be little doubt that the country legends would reunite.

Recently, the band also went back into the studio to record brand new material for the first time in a decade. With 150 industry awards including eight entertainer of the year honors, two Grammys, and recognition from the Recording Industry Association of America as country group of the 20th century, Alabama has earned the right to cruise a little.

The Man, The Music, The Place...

The Hank Williams Museum

118 Commerce Street • Montgomery, Alabama
(334) 262-3600

**The number-one destination for
music fans...Over 6000 sq. ft.**



MUSEUM & GIFT STORE OPEN DAILY

Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
Saturday 10am-4pm • Sunday 1pm-4pm

The best kept secret in town!



www.TheHankWilliamsMuseum.net

THE ORIGINAL COUNTRY GOLD WITH ROWDY YATES RETURNS TO RADIO

EXCLUSIVELY FROM FOCUS 360

Launch Date Set for April 20

New York, New York, April 8, 2013— On the heels of this weekend's win as an Academy of Country Music Award recipient, country radio's number one request show host Rowdy Yates returns to national syndication with **The Original Country Gold with Rowdy Yates**, exclusively from Focus 360. The five-hour weekend specialty program will be available to radio stations and national advertisers starting April 20.

"Rowdy's high energy and upbeat presentation drive appointment listening," stated Todd Alan, Vice President, Affiliate Sales and Programming, Focus 360. "For thousands of listeners across the country, The Original Country Gold with Rowdy Yates is a weekend institution, and we are proud to offer it to our affiliate radio stations."

"Rowdy's reputation for creating fun radio has made him one of country's radio's most popular personalities," observed Dick Silipigni, Vice President, Advertising Sales, Focus 360. "Our national advertisers can deliver their message and connect with listeners in a highly receptive environment that triggers audience engagement."

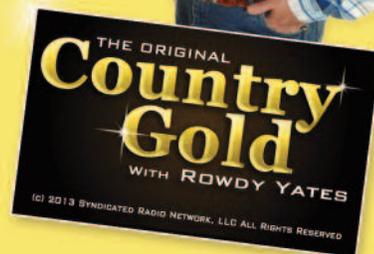
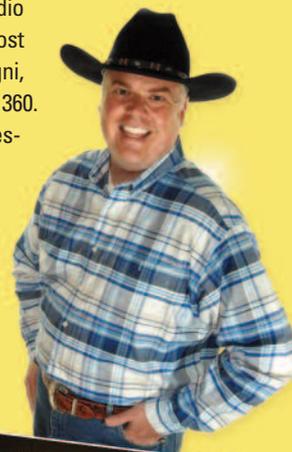
"I am very excited to be back hosting The Original Country Gold and about my new association with Focus 360," said Yates. "Their understanding of the importance of my relationship with listeners, and how to maximize that for advertisers, is essential for the success of our affiliate radio stations and our advertisers. I am looking forward to working with them."

Rowdy Yates is a 2013 Academy of Country Music Award radio winner and a member of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. The Original Country Gold with Rowdy Yates highlights music from "Urban Cowboy" to "Hot Country." Each hour is jam-packed with the biggest country hits from the mid '70s to the mid '90s.

An insider in the country music scene, Rowdy shares entertaining tidbits and stories about country music's biggest stars and songwriters, and interacts with listeners through phone calls and social media. Audience retention elements like hourly prize giveaways, song requests and dedications, themed features and more round out the experience.

About Focus 360:

Focus 360 provides media solutions to advertisers, agencies, program producers, content owners and broadcasters. The New York based company consists of five divisions: National Focus, Hispanic Radio Network, Digital Focus, Focus Activation and the Classic Rock Society of America. Focus 360 specializes in network radio media representation, local digital media platforms, content development in the music arena, and a full spectrum of packages that are cross-platform and reach deep into a specific consumer segment.



Launches Cat Country Network

By Lance Venta



Cat Country 89.1 KXCT Goodland Veteran radio station owner Chris Lash, of Whiplash Community Radio announces the creation of the Cat Country Network, featuring a classic country format from the 60's to the 90's. The network will also feature the launch of *Country Legends* magazine with articles, feature stories, rare pictures, from the four decades of artists the network stations will play, and live in studio concerts, and other shows in various theatres.

Recently Lash purchased three stations in the mid-west including KXCT in Goodland, KS, and others

in Beaver, OK and Springfield, CO. All will feature the Country Legends, Cat Country format. Air talent on the station includes Lash, Uncle Johnny, Michael J. Daniels, Rowdy Yates, and Paul Heil of the Gospel Greats and more!

89.1 Cat Country, KXCT debuted on Saturday, March 1st in Goodland, KS, and streams online at www.catcountry.org, and also created its own phone app, and the station is listed already under the Tunein radio app. "Retirement in Florida did not suit me well. I lasted about three months, when this opportunity arose in the mid-west.

We'll be adding another station to our mix soon, and will continue to grow in the right markets, stations and FM translators." said Lash.

Much like the recent talked about new country format brands, Cat Country will focus on the classic country music. And Lash is serious about it. "Our network studio is a country music museum, from my personal collection. It features rare and one of a kind items from Johnny Cash, Elvis, Rascal Flatts, Little Jimmy Dickens, Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams Sr., and many more." There's no other radio studio like it in the country. We are surrounded

by the legends, while we sit behind the microphone." added Lash.

The Kansas station also features a live country music radio showed named *The Fun on the Farm Jamboree*. Similar to the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, the first show takes place at Goodland's Sherman Theater on Saturday, October 26th. Visit www.catcountry.org to see the artist line up!

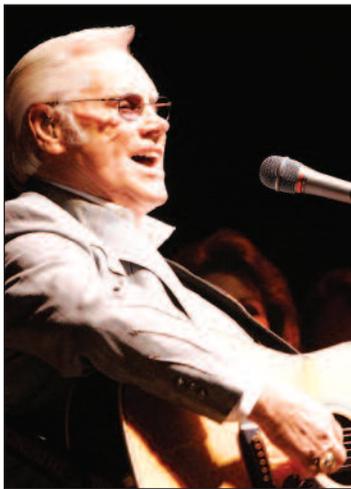
The Cat Country Network is also available to any commercial or non commercial station in the USA, network fed, or live and local delivery. For more details reach out to Lash at fishfm1@hotmail.com

→ RECORDINGS & MEMORABILIA ←

Hank Williams



Ed Guy and Chris Lash
P.O. Box 350447
Palm Coast, FL 32135 USA
386-283-4788
danaptguys@cox.net



George Jones Biography

By Chris Lash

More than 35 years ago, George Jones recorded “Who’s Gonna Fill Their Shoes,” a song that wondered aloud whether newcomers would come along that could possibly walk in the footsteps of the progenitors and giants of country music. All this time later, it’s not a question we’ve had to seriously consider: Jones himself had been around to step into those shoes of sublimity. They just happened to be exactly his size. Now, he too is gone.

A jury of his peers had found him guilty... of unparalleled vocal superiority. Consider some of these endorsements from fellow music legends: Frank Sinatra famously (and coyly) referred to Jones as “the second greatest singer in America.” Garth Brooks summed up the consensus view when he called him “the greatest voice ever to sing country music.” Waylon Jennings expressed a common jealousy when he said, “If we all could sound the way we wanted, we’d all sound like George Jones.” Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones put things in more honorific terms: “George Jones is a national treasure and should be treated accordingly.”

Don’t worry, Keith: America didn’t fall down on the job when it came to that kind of lionization. Jones received the four highest honors that can be granted to anyone in his line of work, starting with his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992. Ten years later, the president bestowed the National Medal of Arts upon him. In yet another executive-branch

moment, Jones was saluted by the Kennedy Center Honors in 2008.

This year, Jones got another top honor to round out music’s most enviable trophy shelf, as the Grammys presented him with their Lifetime Achievement Award. Short of being carved into Mount Rushmore, there aren’t many all-time plaudits left for him to earn even posthumously.

You don’t rack up that kind of adoration by playing possum – unless, of course, you’re the Possum, to name one of Jones’ affectionately bestowed nicknames. (You don’t get it by being a “no-show,” either, though Jones had a few notorious years where he earned that particular term of endearment.) No, you merit it through the kind of work ethic that can be measured partially in numbers. With a run of songs extending from the mid-1950s into the 21st century, Jones has had a whopping 143 Top 40 country hits – a chart run that renders any “best-of” set that’s not a bulky boxed set woefully incomplete.

But Jones has always been more about soul than stats. And that’s the kind of quality that can best be explained by the stars who continue to take a lesson from his classic recordings.

“George’s voice is equal parts pain and home,” young country singer Eric Church told the Washington Post. Jamey Johnson put it this way: “His voice is the voice of your own spirit. If your spirit could jump out and have its

own voice and sing a country song to you, it'd sound like George Jones. He feels everything for you." Said Emmylou Harris: "He has a remarkable voice that flows out of him effortlessly and quietly, but with an edge that comes from the stormy part of the heart."

He's been compared to Sinatra as a saloon-singer stylist. Interestingly, though, many fellow singers keep referring to blues and R&B as the nearest antecedents for Jones' inimitable phrasing. Noted Kid Rock, "It's a country voice, but he has such a great blues range, the way he bends all those notes." As Vince Gill put it for the Post, "People are drawn to the soulfulness of the way George sings, [even though] it doesn't equate that twangy beer-drinkin' and cheatin' songs would be thought of as 'soulful'... You can't define the ache that's in George's voice. It's just something inherently him."

No singer has ever made (or helped) more people cry. That's a legacy he hardly shied away from. "Jones told me once that he'd rather sing a sad song than eat," Tennessee music columnist Peter Cooper noted. But Jones wasn't always known as "The King of Broken Hearts" (to mention a Jim Lauderdale song that was written as a tribute to Jones and became a salutary hit in the hands of George Strait).

At first, Jones was known as a good-time guy and honky-tonk man. He even recorded some rockabilly early in his career. He was a co-writer on his first chart hit, 1955's "Why Baby Why," which buried the lyrical heartbreak in a fast-paced rave-up of a tune. (No wonder that breakout song was subsequently covered by everyone from Webb Pierce and Charlie Pride to — just in the past few years — Patty Loveless, Buddy Miller, and the Secret Sisters.) His first No. 1 hit, 1959's "White Lightning," was a blur of hilarious tics and hiccups that established him as a vocal marvel but hardly hinted at the master balladeer to come.

But after Jones paired up with producer Billy Sherrill in the 1970s

and '80s, their work together exemplified the lusciously string-drenched style known as country-politan, and it became clear that his records were better for drowning sorrows than any drink a bartender could ever proffer. One outright weeper, 1980's "He Stopped Loving Her Today," became widely regarded as the greatest country single of all time, to go along with the best-in-class kudos racked up by its singer.

Born in 1931, George was reared in Beaumont, Texas on the twin weekly rituals of hymn-singing and Grand Ole Opry radio broadcasts, where he took his first musical cues from heroes like Bill Monroe and Roy Acuff. ("I would give anything if I could sing like George Jones," Acuff, the teacher, later said about the student.)

His early life was a school of hard knocks not uncommon to east Texas. He ran away at 14, and was soon on the honky-tonk circuit backing seemingly more promising crooners. Marriage at 20 was followed by divorce at 21 and a stint in the Marines. Then, in 1954, he signed with Starday Records and began recording with Lefty Frizzell's backup band. After the first run of up-tempo hits, he really came into his own with haunting ballads like "The Window Up Above" that seemed to exist in a romantic past, haunted present, and deliriously uncertain future all at once.

In the '60s, Jones recorded hundreds of songs for the Mercury, Musicor, and United Artists labels, including the No. 1 classics "Tender Years," "She Thinks I Still Care," and "Walk Through This World With Me," as well as more ephemeral fare like "Love Bug." He also found out just how much fans loved him not just as a soloist but recurring duet partner — at the time, Melba Montgomery, his foil on "We Must Have Been Out of Our Minds" and other '60s singles.

Of course, the partner he's most associated with is Tammy Wynette, who had a major impact on the direction of his solo career as well.

After Jones' second marriage ended in divorce, he met Tammy and moved to Nashville, where they wed in 1969. In 1971, he moved over to her label, Epic, and began working with her producer, Sherrill.

The years that followed were some of the most personally unhappy but commercially successful of Jones' career, as he racked up hit after iconic hit, including "A Good Year for the Roses" (later covered by one of Jones' most enthusiastic rock protégés, Elvis Costello), "The Grand Tour," "I Always Get Lucky With You," and "If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me (Her Memory Will)." Even though Jones and Wynette split up in 1974, they continued recording together through 1980, making history as the first divorced couple ever to have No. 1 duets as "Golden Ring" and "Near You" hit the top of the charts.

Jones' substance abuse during those years made buying a ticket for one of his shows legendarily like buying a lottery ticket, even if the odds slightly favored his making it to the show. "I never had anything as a kid and all of a sudden I had everything thrown at my feet. It can ruin you quickly," Jones recounted in his 1996 autobiography, *I Lived to Tell It All*.

But after he married the former Nancy Sepulvedo in 1983, his personal life began an upward spiral and he shed his "No Show Jones" reputation for one that might as well have gotten him nicknamed Old Reliable. A series of critically acclaimed albums for the MCA label followed. There were relapses in his sobriety, but following an automobile accident in the late '90s, Jones sobered up for good. With the professional as well as personal support of his wife, Jones reemerged with a Garth Brooks duet and a series of hits and rarities retrospectives on his own label, Bandit Records.

Fifty-six years after being named the Most Promising New Country Vocalist of 1956, Jones was still living out that promise with a regular touring routine at the time of his passing. He was in the midst

of his final tour and audiences were still flocking to hear the voice that was country's most indescribable as well as, by acclamation, its finest. Jones was the single greatest link to country's golden age when he died. That fact was not lost on a generation younger singers who revered him but continually name-checked him in their own hits.

Even a partial list of songs that mention Jones by name is exhausting and could fill an entire compilation album. That Jones-revering roundup would include Alan Jackson's "Don't Rock the Jukebox," the Jackson/Strait duet "Murder on Music Row," the Dixie Chicks' "Long Time Gone," Shooter Jennings' "4th of July," Aaron Lewis' "Country Boy," Gretchen Wilson's "California Girls," Eric Lee Beddingfield's "The Gospel According to Jones," Jamey Johnson's "Between Jennings and Jones" and "Keepin' Up With the Jonesin'," Brantley Gilbert's "Rock This Town," and most recently Jason Aldean's smash "Dirt Road Anthem."

What about that voice was so captivating even to fans and performers who are several decades Jones' junior? Legendary folk-rock-er James Taylor could only liken those pipes to another great country instrument, when he spoke about Jones in an issue of *Rolling Stone* devoted to the greatest singers of all time. "George Jones doesn't sound like he was influenced by any other singer," said Taylor (who wrote his late '70s hit "Bartender" in the style of Jones and later re-recorded it with him). "He sounds like a steel guitar. It's the way he blends notes, the way he comes up to them and comes off them, the way he crescendos and decrescendos. The dynamic of it is very tight and really controlled — it's like carving with the voice."

Following his death on Friday, April 26th, a lot of people asked the question "Whose Gonna Fill These Shoes.?" When it comes to George Jones, the answer is "nobody."



We've come a long way in 80 years together, Country Music & Broadcasting. The old station went on the air in Wheeling in 1926 & in April 1933 the show was inaugurated, grew and took to the stage as the Original Jamboree.

The Golden Anniversary was 30 years ago, the location has changed, but the Show with Country Music Tradition Like None Other, continues!

We look upon this Monumental Milestone with tremendous excitement.

With a new state of the art facility within the Wheeling Casino Hotel, attracting millions with our traditional and special Country Music family.

The future has never looked brighter with Country Music being more popular then ever. We feel it is a miracle that we are still here and growing.

The BEST is yet to come. The Wheeling Jamboree USA.



THE COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW WITH TRADITION LIKE NONE OTHER!

JAMBOREE ★ MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ☆ Grandpa Jones | ☆ Jimmy Martin | ☆ Dave Dudley |
| ☆ Cousin Emmy | ☆ Sonny & Bobby Osborne | ☆ Dick Curless |
| ☆ Doc & Chickie Williams | ☆ Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper | ☆ David Houston |
| ☆ Ken Curtis | ☆ The Stanley Brothers | ☆ Mary Lou Turner |
| ☆ Shug Fisher | ☆ The Wilburn Brothers | ☆ Charlie Moore & Bill Napier |
| ☆ The Lilly Brothers | ☆ Kenny Roberts | ☆ Johnny Russel |
| ☆ Jim & Jesse McReynolds | ☆ Reno & Smiley | ☆ Skeeter Davis |
| ☆ Hardrock Gunter | ☆ Mac Wiseman | ☆ Lionel Cartwright |
| ☆ Hawkshaw Hawkins | ☆ The Sunshine Boys | ☆ Brad Paisley |

www.WheelingJamboree.org

PO Box 470—Wheeling, WV 26003

Wheeling Jamboree, Inc. a 501 (c) - 3 nonprofit corp.