

PBS to Show Country Music

By VAL ADAMS

"Austin City Limits," a series of progressive country music shows now being produced in Austin, Tex., will be distributed nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service, beginning Jan. 2. WNET/13 here said it will present the series each Friday at midnight.

Thirteen hour-long shows featuring music and musicians of the Southwest are being taped



Barbara Walters

Bill Bixby

at KLRN-TV, a public TV station that has a huge new studio on the University of Texas campus. When Paul Bosner, producer of "Austin City Limits," was asked to define progressive country music, he said, "It's a state of mind."

Bosner was a TV cameraman for CBS here for 19 years before leaving New York in 1969. He has been senior producer at KLRN-TV for two years.

All songs on "Austin City Limits" will have their roots in country music, Bosner said. The various styles, he added, include country rock, country blues and ballads, rockabilly and conjunto, which is Mexican country music and also known as Tex-Mex.

Flaco Jimenez, an accordionist, will play conjunto on the episode featuring Mexican country music. Bosner said other performers on the series will include Willie Nelson, singer and composer; Rusty Wier, singer, guitarist and band-leader and Townes Van Zandt, singer and composer who does talking country blues.

Each episode of "Austin City Limits" is taped before a studio audience of 400 to 500 persons.

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NBC's "Today" will expand to three hours on Monday (7 to 10 a.m., one day only) to provide live coverage of a state reception in the People's Republic of China for President Ford and his wife, Betty. Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Peng will be the host at the reception.

Barbara Walters, co-host of "Today," is a member of the NBC News team accompanying the President's party to China.

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APC Sports has named its