

Eddie Rabbitt is certain to remember 1976 as a special year. During these twelve months he has had three big hits from the "Rocky Mountain Music" LP including "Drinkin' My Baby (Off My Mind)," "Rocky Mountain Music" and the current single "Two Dollars In The Jukebox." Eddie has also made his national television debut on "The Merv Griffin Show" and "Dinah" with "The Midnight Special" to air soon. But he'll also remember '76 because on Saturday, November 27, Eddie wed the former **Janine Girardi** in Nashville. The couple are on a two-week honeymoon in Florida.

This bicentennial year marked a musical milestone for Texans and **Freddy Fender's** new album "If You're Ever In Texas" is fanning his superstar flame.

Mickey Gilley has capped his best year ever with two number one records, and his latest release "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" is already top ten. Mickey will spend the holidays in Houston playing golf, flying and sportin' round in his 1928 Model A. Mickey's all set for six dates at Gilley's Club, December 17-18, 24-25, 31 and January 1. The Houston club will also feature holiday sets by **Willie Nelson**, **Hank Locklin**, **Carl and Pearl Butler** and **Chubby Wise**. Mickey also just finished a Christmas album which producer **Eddie Kilroy** is rushing for a holiday release date.

Have you heard **Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown** breakdown on that eight string 'lectric fiddle crafted by **Randy Wood**, owner of Nashville's Pickin' Parlor? WOW!! "Gatemouth" has just returned from a successful African tour.

Bob Luman is back on the road, to the delight of country music fans, following critical surgery.

Steve Fromholz was another Texan who gained national prominence in '76 with his first LP release on Capitol, "A Rumor In My Own Time," and his own "I'd Have To Be Crazy," a biggie for **Willie Nelson**.

The **Lost Gonzo Band** just released their second MCA album and are closing out a heavy national tour with **Jerry Jeff Walker**.

Ray Wylie Hubbard and **The Cowboy Twinkies**, along with **Larry White** of Dallas, just finished producing their old friend **Rick Fowler** of Three Faces West fame.

Michael Murphey's new Epic album, "Flowing Free Forever," is creating interest in all musical fields with a diverse offering of his talents exemplified in songs like "Cherokee Fiddle" and "See How All The Horses Come Dancing" and the poetic "A North Wind And A New Moon." Michael co-produced the album with **Jeff Guercio** at Caribou Ranch in Colorado. **Jack Murphy** and **Michael McKinney** may be lost to the late night crowd in Dallas but not on "Flowing Free Forever." The former jazz duo have also been in and out of Nashville doing sessions.

The **Moffatt** clan in Forth Worth should have a very special holiday season with the success of their offspring to celebrate this year; son **Hugh** scored with his "Just In Case," a hit for **Ronnie Milsap**, and daughter **Katy** with her first Columbia album, produced by **Billy Sherrill**.

Steve Young and producer **Roy Dea** are working on Steve's second album, a follow-up to his critically acclaimed "Renegade Picker," with a release date set for early '77. RCA just released **Willie Nelson's** "It's Not Supposed To Be That Way" by ole **Waylon's** favorite singer — **Steve Young**. Steve has just finished several concert dates with **Waylon** and a documentary for French TV.

Nashville songwriters **Rob Parsons** and **Ed Penny** have just had a European cut on their "If That's What Friends Are For," a recent hit for **Barbara Mandrell**.

Gary Stewart's new release on RCA, "Your Place Or Mine" was penned one recent lunch hour by **Rory Bourke** and **Carol and Mary Beth Anderson** (Carol and Mary Beth are part of the group **Ladysmith**).

A Kingston Springs, Tennessee boy done it again — **Geof Morgan's** new MCA release "The License Plate Just Said Texas" was a KBOX pick first week out.

Townes Van Zandt has moved to Nashville and treated the Pickin' Parlor crowd to three nostalgic nights with friends **Guy Clark**, **Steve Young**, **Michael Murphey** and that fantastic family group, **The Lunfords**, sharing the stage. Townes' unreleased album must be the worst kept secret of his career, and contains some of his best songs ever. **Emmylou Harris** cut Townes' classic "Poncho And Lefty," set for release on her next album.

People in Tyler, Texas 'round Brian's studio are raving about a young singer, **Nancy Lindley**, who covers ground from **Kate Smith** to **Patsy Cline** with exceptional originality.

The **Marshall Tucker Band-Bonnie Bramlett-Grinderswitch** show received six standing ovations at the Pavilion in Paris, France. With producer **Paul Hornsby**, the group will record three dates in England. The new MTB album "Carolina Dreams" is set for a Feb. '77 release.

Sea Level just finished their first **Stewart Levine**-produced Capricorn album, also set for a February release.

Beginning Dec. 1 on WPLN-FM Nashville at 4 pm a new weekly program — "All Things Considered" — the stories and songs of **Gamble Rogers**.

The original Broadway production of the Tony and Grammy award-winning musical comedy "Raisin" comes to the Opry House Dec. 7-9. Produced by **Robert Nemiroff** (widower of **Lorraine Hansberry**, who wrote "Raisin In The Sun"), "Raisin" is now into the second year of a national tour starring the same cast which made the original three-year run on Broadway with **Virginia Capers** in the lead.

Charly McClain's new single on Epic, "Lay Down," is getting heavy airplay. Charly and **Shylo** will showcase this week at Nashville's Exit/In, Gilley's in Houston and a Dallas club. **Ronnie Scaife** and **Danny Hogan** of Shylo have been garnering attention as writers for some time. Wait'll you hear their harmony on "Where Love Likes To Live," co-written with **Ronnie's** mom.

Asleep At The Wheel, set for recording sessions at Summet Studios in Dallas, will be touring Europe in the spring.

Clifton Cheiner finished a new Barclay album produced by **Phillipe Rault** and recorded at The Studio In The Country in Bogalusa, La. The album, called "Frenchin' The Boogie," features "You Keep Knockin' But You Can't Come In."

Patty Gallagher is now being booked by Atlas Artist Bureau out of Nashville.

Wes Yoder and **Randy Matthews**, co-spirits with Nashville's Dharma agency, recently signed to represent **Eldridge Cleaver** in his personal tours. "The Best Of Randy Matthews," a collection from one of the early innovators of music with a spiritual core, is scheduled for an early '77 release by Myrrh Records. Perfect timing for the 7th birthday celebration of Myrrh, especially since Randy was one of Myrrh's first artists.

Loretta will host the Jan. 21 edition of the Midnight Special and her "Somebody, Somewhere" (another Dillon gem) holds down the #1 spot on most national charts.

Kenny Starr joins "farmer" **Don Williams** out near Ashland City, Tennessee, as **Kenny** recently purchased property there.

Brenda Lee recently returned from Chicago, where she performed with fellow MCA artists **Jessica James** and **Conway Twitty**. Her latest, "Taking What I Can Get," produced by **Snuff Garrett**, is the first to be taken from her new album "L.A. Sessions."

carmen adams

Top 50 Country Albums

	Weeks On Chart	12/4		Weeks On Chart	12/4
1	10		26	29	
2	9		27	2	
3	8		28	12	
4	9		29	3	
5	23		30	7	
6	7		31	5	
7	15		32	13	
8	7		33	2	
9	5		34	24	
10	14		35	23	
11	5		36	2	
12	8		37	2	
13	4		38	9	
14	5		39	5	
15	23		40	1	
16	15		41	4	
17	3		42	2	
18	7		43	1	
19	16		44	17	
20	4		45	3	
21	6		46	1	
22	14		47	1	
23	4		48	22	
24	16		49	1	
25	5		50	46	

Looking Ahead To Country Top 100

Near You George Jones & Tammy Wynette (Epic)	Lovelight Comes A Shining Pat Boone (Hitsville)
Uncloudy Day Willie Nelson (Columbia)	Hello Atlanta Chip Taylor (Columbia)
When The New Wears Off Our Love Jody Miller (Epic)	Steppin' Out Tonight Lori Parker (Con Brio)
There She Goes Again Joe Stampley (Epic)	Teddy Toad Bobby Butler (Pantheon Desert)
My Eyes Adored You Marty Mitchell (Hitsville)	Honky Tonk Fool Ben Reece (Polydor)
Baby, You Look Good John Denver (RCA)	If You Don't Like Hank Williams Rayburn Anthony (Polydor)
Crazy Linda Ronstadt (Asylum)	Lyn' Again Calico (UA)
Ridin' Rainbows Tanya Tucker (MCA)	I Went To Bed Loving You Glenn Barber
Midnight Angel Barbara Mandrell (ABC/Dot)	Souvenirs Colleen Peterson (Capitol)
Two Less Lonely People Rex Allen Jr. (WB)	Say You Love Me Linda K. Lance (Gar-Pax)
If Love Was A Bottle Of Wine Tommy Overstreet (ABC/Dot)	Silence On The Line Sterling Whipple (Columbia)
They've Got Millions Larry Chessier (WB)	After The Lovin' Engelbert Humperdinck (Epic)
	Take Time To Know Him Sherri King (UA)