

Special to
The American-Statesman

COUNTRY PICKIN'S from here
and there:

RCA has gone into its vaults again for songs which Willie Nelson recorded before he switched labels. The newly-issued album is entitled "Willie Before His Time." The theme is well expressed in the liner notes: "...if you'd like to know what you were missing a few years back, give a listen to Willie before his time." Nine of the 10 songs are reissues of Willie favorites from earlier albums. This one is good, but my favorite album of early Willie material is "Willie Nelson Live," another RCA reissue from last year. It was recorded live at Fort Worth's famed Panther Hall.

Time has honored the all-time great songs composed by the veteran Austinite Floyd Tillman. Another kind of honor came his way last week when the Texas Senate paid formal tribute to this famed Texan of the music world. The move was sponsored by Senators Lloyd Doggett and Peyton McKnight, both avid country music fans.

There's talk around that David Alan Coe is seriously considering moving to Austin.


For you Jimmy Driftwood fans, Monument Records recently released a "The Best of" album. It contains his classic compositions "Tennessee Stud," "Battle of New Orleans" and "Shanty in the Hollow," along with other tunes he made famous.

Loretta Lynn's fascinating, humorous, moving, and at times jolting autobiography, "Coal Miner's Daughter," now is available as a paperback. If you can't find it locally, it can be ordered by sending \$1.30 to Warner Books, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10019.


Asleep at the Wheel is due back home next week after their three-week, six-country tour of Europe.

The good word continues to spread nationally about the great talent and the good times which characterize Rod Kennedy's Kerrville music festivals. For instance, no less than 54 four-day advance tickets have been sold to residents of Denver for the Folk Festival May 26-29, the first of this year's four outdoor events.

Sometime Austin resident Townes Van Zandt seldom stays in one place long. His friends and fans may be glad to know he currently has settled in Nashville. John Lomax, younger generation member of the famed



**country
music**



TOWNES VAN ZANDT
Settled in Nashville

folk music Lomax family, is working with Townes on bookings and overall management. Townes even has an active fan club now, issuing regular news and photos. To join, send \$3 to John Lomax, Box 12542, Nashville, Tenn., 37212.

Townes, incidentally, will be back in central Texas to appear at the Kerrville Folk Festival Memorial Day weekend.

Another reminder that the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville is sold out throughout the year for weeks in advance, sometimes months in advance during the summer. So order tickets early to avoid disappointment. For information, write Grand Ole Opry Ticket Office, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tenn., 37214.

Stoney Cooper died recently in Nashville. Stoney and his wife Wilma Lee were country music superstars as a husband-and-wife duet in the 1950s and the finest folks you could ever hope to know.

It's interesting that two of the brightest flashes being made recently by newcomers to the national country music scene are from two girls with boys' names, Charly McClain and Marshall Chapman. Marshall, incidentally, is from the same town as the three members of the former Uncle Walt's Band, Spartanburg, S.C.

(Townsend Miller's country music columns appear every Thursday and Friday in *The American Statesman*.)