

COUNTRY

THE COUNTRY COLUMN

REUNION WITH WALKER — It's been almost three years since **Jerry Jeff Walker** released "Contrary To Ordinary." Walker fans can now rest easy; there is finally new product — "Reunion." For those of you who like to keep running tallies, Walker has released 12 albums in his 13-year recording career, including "Mr. Bojangles" and "Five Years Gone" in 1968 and "Being Free" in 1969, all on the Atlantic label. After that release, Walker moved his talents to MCA in 1973, following a four-year hiatus. Walker debuted on the label with a self-titled album and later that same year released "Viva Terlingua." He followed with "Walker's Collectibles," "Ridin' High," "It's A Good Night For Singin'," "A Man Must Carry On," "Contrary To Ordinary," "Best Of" and his latest, "Reunion," which was recorded at Muscle Shoals Sound Studios and produced by **Barry Beckett**. There you have it, a complete album discography of an artist who somewhere along the line picked up the moniker the "original redneck mother."



Jerry Jeff Walker

THE BARON ALBUM — As we all thought it would, "The Baron" single project by **Johnny Cash** and **Billy Sherrill** has blossomed into an album project, which is slated for release this week. The single and album project marked the first time Sherrill had ever produced Cash (**Cash Box**, March 21). Material on the album includes "Hey, Hey Train," a natural for Cash, and a couple of up-tempo surprises — "The Blues Keep Getting Bluer" and "The Hard Way." If you're in the area, you can catch Cash at Honolulu's Walkiki Sheraton June 9-11, and a series of Australian dates June 15-24.

HERE AND THERE — Building on its reputation as a solid drawing card for opening new clubs, the **Rangers** played the newly opened Headless Horseman Club in Greenville, Miss. May 13-17, and, beginning May 25, worked a six-day engagement at the South 40 Club in Burlington, Iowa during the club's second week of operation. Between opening clubs, the group found time to record at Music City Recorders with producers **Jerry West** and **Jack Logan** . . . When Network Ink, Inc. president **Mike Hyland** adopted a little wire-haired puppy named **Dolly** last year, little did he expect the promiscuous pup would give birth to four little ones less than a year later. In honor of the dog's namesake, Hyland and family have named the three puppies who will remain part of the Hyland clan after the more well-known namesake's siblings — **Freda**, **Floyd** and **Stella** . . . **Ferlin Huskey** has signed with the Shorty Lavender Talent Agency in Nashville . . . **Roger Miller** and **Willie Nelson** began recording a duet album earlier in May . . . Since signing with the Agency for the Performing Arts, **Riders In the Sky** has made a number of television and personal appearances, including the Boarding House in San Francisco, Caesar's Palace in Lake Tahoe and the John Davidson Show. Look for the group's second album, "Cowboy Jubilee," to ship this week on Rounder Records . . . The recently released **Billy Joe Royal** album on Kat Family Records has a little bit of everything on it, from A/C to Top 40 to country. It was produced by **Chips Moman** . . . During the **Piggys'** recent concert at Ringside Seat in Nashville, **Elvis Costello** was seen in the audience, catching the group's show for the second time in less than a year. Also on hand was **Doobie Brother John McFee**, who was in town playing with Costello. Outside interest in the Nashville rockers seems to be increasing more and more, while the local following remains on a steady upswing . . . In a most unprecedented move, the **Statler Brothers** and **Lester "Roadhog" Moran** and his **Cadillac Cowboys** will appear on the same stage, although they will not go so far as to appear at the same time. Both groups will appear on the upcoming syndicated special, **Music City News Awards Show**, June 8, which will be broadcast from the Grand Ole Opry House. The Statlers are co-hosting the annual event . . . The **Johnny Dollar Company** in Nashville is handling production and promotion for the local indie label National Foundation Records . . . For country entertainment in New York, O'Lunney's seems to be one of the places to be. The club will be featuring bands like **Blackwater**, **Saw Back Sally**, **Jeremie** and her band, the **Gabe Johnson Band**, the **Cammie Harper Band**, **Steel Angel**, the **Lost Rhythm Boys** and **Three Penny Opera** during June . . . **Louise Mandrell** and **R.C. Bannon** have signed with RCA . . . The **Corbin/Hanner Band** has two new tours booked for the summer — first with **Oak Ridge Boys**, followed by the **New Riders of the Purple Sage** . . . **Roy Clark**'s left arm has mended properly, and he opened his late-May stint at the Frontier Hotel in Vegas on schedule . . . **Guy Clark** recently attended the New York premiere of **Heartworn Highways**, a documentary music film starring Clark, **Townes Van Zandt**, the **Charlie Daniels Band**, **David Allan Coe** and others. It was like a high school reunion when Clark and Van Zandt got together for a little impromptu performance at City Limits later that evening.

BUILT-IN FOLLOWING — When **Terry McMillan**'s debut single for RCA is released this month, there is no doubt the label will have no trouble at all promoting it. The young percussionist/harmonica player from High Point, N.C. has already built a solid reputation as one of the country's top session musicians, with four NARAS Superpicker Awards to his credit. And during a recent showcase, we saw what a following he already boasts — swarms of fans that range from their teens to 60-plus crowded about McMillan after his performance, asking for autographs and his Fan Fair schedule.

Jennifer Bohler



Terry McMillan



FROM HARPER VALLEY TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP — **Jeannie C. Riley**, who will long be remembered for her hit, "Harper Valley P.T.A.," recently appeared at an autograph party at Mill's Bookstore in Nashville in support of her autobiography, *From Harper Valley to the Mountain Top*. The autograph party was the first in a series of promotions for the book, which will include an appearance on the Today Show, as well as other television and radio appearances. Riley (r) is pictured with some fans at the bookstore.

SINGLES REVIEWS

NEW AND DEVELOPING ARTISTS



BADLANDS (CMH 1540)

The Gettin' Over You (3:06) (Jowag Music/Silver Ridge Music — ASCAP) (J.D. Stiegling) (Producer: J. Wagner)

From out of the west they came, or so it seems with this up-and-coming group on the L.A.-based CMH label. The single, with its solid harmonies, excellent lead vocals and arresting piano and guitar interlude, is commercial and satisfying enough to catch the interest of country radio. Also, jukebox operators should pay close attention.

JOHN REX REEVES (Soc-A-Gee SC 100)

You're the Reason (2:42) (Vogue Music — BMI) (B. Edwards, F. Henley, M. Imes, T. Fell) (Producer: J. Elgin)

Reeves has an easy way about his singing that is reminiscent of Eddy Arnold or Razy Bailey. The catchy melody, punctuation percussion and accompanying female vocalists add punch to Reeves' flowing vocals about sleepless nights. A good tune for drive time.



HITS OUT OF THE BOX

JUICE NEWTON (Capitol 4997)

Queen Of Hearts (3:29) (Drunk Monkey Music — ASCAP) (H. Devito) (Producer: R. Landis)

THE STATLER BROTHERS (Mercury 57051)

Don't Wait On Me (3:14) (American Cowboy Music — BMI) (H. Reid, D. Reid) (Producer: J. Kennedy)

DAVID FRIZZELL & SHELLY WEST (Warner Bros./Viva WBS-49745)

A Texas State Of Mind (2:37) (Peso Music/Wallet Music — BMI) (C. Crofford, J. Durrill, S. Garrett) (Producers: S. Garrett, S. Dorff)

FEATURE PICKS

JERRY REED (RCA PB-12253)

Good Friends Make Good Lovers (2:53) (Warner Tamerlane Pub. Corp/Face The Music — BMI) (T. Seals) (Producers: N. Wilson, J. Reed, D. Briggs)

DEBBY BOONE (Warner Bros./Curb WBS-49720)

It'll Be Him (3:01) (Hat Band Music/Baron Music — BMI) (B. R. Reynolds) (Producer: L. Butler)

THRASHER BROTHERS (MCA 51123)

Smooth Southern Highway (3:33) (Tree Publ. Co./Cross Keys Publ. — BMI/ASCAP) (C. Putman, S. Throckmorton) (Producer: J. Foglesong)

THE O'ROARK BROTHERS (Comstock COM-1658)

Can't We Start Over Again (2:39) (White Cat Music — ASCAP) (D. Kalman) (Producer: P. Parker)

BILLY LYERLY (RCA PB-12255)

My Baby's Coming Home Again Today (2:36) (Chaparral Music — ASCAP) (B. Lyerly)

DOUG KERSHAW (Scotti Brothers ZS6-02137)

Hello Woman (3:49) (Doug Kershaw Music — BMI) (D. Kershaw) (Producers: D. Perry, D. Kershaw)

LULA BELLE (Pacific Challenger PC-3516)

Home Made Wine (2:59) (Pacific Challenger Music — BMI) (L.B. Garland) (Producer: C. Whittington)

RAY PILLOW (First Generation FGS-011)

One Too Many Memories (2:48) (Sawgrass Music — BMI) (K. Westberry) (Producer: P. Drake)

CONCRETE COWBOY BAND (Excelsior SIS-1011)

Country Is The Closest Thing To Heaven (You Can Hear) (2:55) (Captar Music — ASCAP) (B. Keeley, S. Vining) (Producers: S. Vining, E. Keeley)

LARRY HEABERLIN (Sungold SG-100)

Too Many Movies (2:50) (Keca Music — ASCAP) (J. Weatherly) (Producer: J. Howard)

ALBUM REVIEWS



PLEASURE — **Dave Rowland and Sugar** — Elektra 5E-525 — Producer: Jimmy Bowen — List: 8.98

Dave Rowland and Sugar have a new producer, a new label and a new female vocalist, but fans of the group's distinctive boy/girl harmonies can relax — the threesome has retained the sound that has become a popular item on both radio and jukebox. Equally adept at handling up-tempo numbers and the soft ballads, this album gives an ample sampling of both. Cuts to watch in addition to the single, "Fool By Your Side," include "The Pleasure's All Mine," "The First Time All Over Again" and "Once Or Twice."