

# Jim and Jesse To Appear at Shindig

(Editor's Note) The following article is a biographical sketch of Jim and Jesse, the country-western music stars who will be performing at Shindig at Cripple Creek on June 21.

Jim and Jesse were born in Coeburn, Virginia to a family well-versed in traditional music. There is something, however, which goes beyond the music itself - something which is the result of growing up singing together, sharing the same musical background and influences - something that makes two voices sound like they belong together. There is no mistaking the harmony of Jim and Jesse McReynolds. After amateur local performances they began, in 1947, to work their way up the ladder of live radio broadcasts and personal appearances throughout the Southeast.

Success was official when, in 1964, they were asked to join the Grand Ole Opry. From the beginning they have used bluegrass-type accompaniment, and their band, the Virginia Boys, has always featured both five-string banjo and fiddle. Jim McReynolds plays guitar and sings a clear, polished tenor that distinguishes Jim and Jesse vocals from those of most bluegrass groups. Jesse's mandolin playing is likewise a characteristic. "McReynolds" - or "cross-picking", is a fast alternation of repeated melodic patterns that few have successfully imitated. Jim and Jesse's music is clean and precise, a unique balance to the drive and force typical of bluegrass music.

After joining the Opry, Jim and Jesse won acclaim with the larger national country music audience, towards which bluegrass fans often hold some degree of hostility. Jim and Jesse have bridged the gap successfully, however. While sometimes using electric backup instruments (guitar, pedal steel, bass) as tastes and acoustics require before a live country music audience or in their syndicated television show, they have continued to be favorites of the bluegrass crowds, appearing with straight bluegrass accompaniment at festivals and concerts.



Jim and Jesse, country-western music recording stars from the Grand Ole Opry, will be the featured entertainers at the Shindig at Cripple Creek on June 21.

Furthermore, their manner of presentation is always in the vein that bluegrass fans like to claim as being their

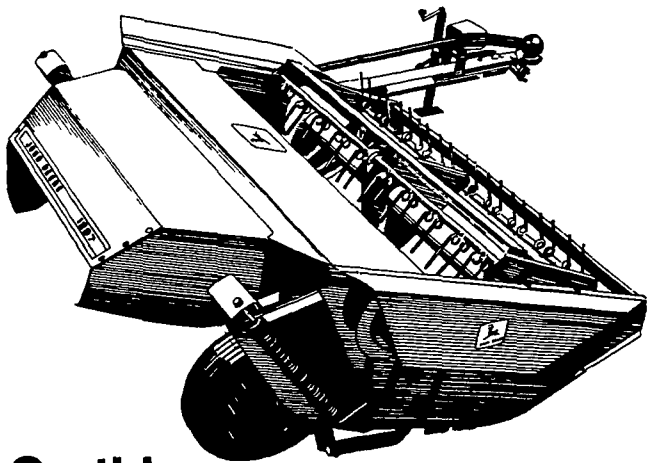
own - not too flashy, not too uppity, just good pickin' and singin'. Their versatility reflects a respect for and

knowledge of both audiences. Novelty songs, (e.g. "Diesel on My Tail") have entered their repertoire in

more recent years, perhaps aimed at country audience sales. Likewise, theme albums have been released such as WE LIKE TRAINS and BERRY PICKIN' IN THE COUNTRY, the latter a most interesting country tribute to Chuck Berry. One of their most recent hits was a single entitled "Freight Train" and also an album by the same title on the Capitol label. Jim and Jesse have just recently signed with the new Opryland label which is also distributed through Capitol. Bluegrass fans have not been completely slighted, however, for much of their newer material (e.g. "Snowbird") has been tastefully adapted to bluegrass. Their popular album MANDOLIN WORKSHOP, is strictly instrumental and will contradict any claims to neglect of bluegrass. Jim and Jesse, for nearly a decade, have proven themselves to be one of the most talented and versatile acts in country music.

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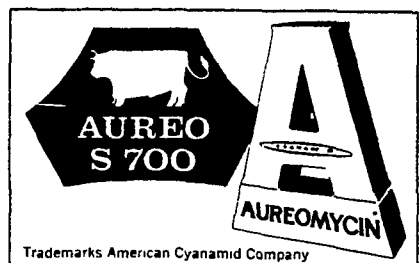
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