

Record Review

Merle Haggard and the Stangers Someday We'll Look Back

Hag has done it again! This has got to be the best country and western album of the year by a male vocalist, and that includes Charlie Pride who has surpassed every country recording award this year. Nothing against Mr. Pride, mind you. Every since "Okie From Muskogee", Merle has been laying low. Criticism concerning references to hippies and the life-style of American youth in that song, has caused Merle, I think, to re-evaluate his understanding towards the young. Now he has written "Big Time Annie's Square"; "My friends, call her hippie— And her friends call me big time Annie's square", "Annie's friends don't question— The square I'm known as big time Annie's square". Hag sure has been going through some changes.

There's a trilogy of songs on the album; "California Cottonfields", "Tulare Dust", and "One Row at a Time". All are about cotton picking. The former two songs look back when Merle was a child, depicting the sad plight of the poor Okies who had to abandon their homesteads; "California cottonfields— Where labor camps were filled with weary men with broken dreams — California cottonfields — As close to wealth as daddy ever came". These lyrics weren't composed by Merle, but I couldn't imagine anyone improving upon this version.

In the tradition of "Mama Tried", there is "Huntsville", Merles has been busted and he's on the train to Huntsville prison, but he's got other plans because "The man better keep both eyes on me— Or they're gonna lose ol' Hag". The Strangers do some dynamite back up here. And there's more... The title song, "Someday We'll Look Back" is a fitting opening, considering much of the album concerns itself with the hard times of the past. "Train of Life" written by that Nashville picker turned motel tycoon Roger Miller; "One Sweet Hello" a mellow love song; "I'd Rather Be Gone", which was a hit for Hank Williams Jr.; "Carolyn" has Glen Campbell doing harmony behind Haggard, and "The Only Trouble With Me". All in all a fine collection of country songs, some deeply rooted in folk music, much in the vein of Woodie Guthrie.

The Strangers support is, and their musicianship shines through on every song. The Strangers are simply one of the greatest country bands around, and you won't find an orchestra and chorus anywhere to muddle their sound.

If you haven't picked up on this album yet I strongly suggest you do. And if you haven't picked up on Merle Haggard, you don't know what you've been missing.

—Ken Calascione

Shut-ins Enjoy MYF Caroling

The Intermediate MYF of the Truckee United Methodist Church met recently and went caroling to shut-ins of the church. Each shut-in was given a Christmas booklet and a candy decoration.

Refreshments followed at the Forty Fort Dairy. Attending were Carol Kreidler, Lisa Williams, Pam Johnson, Diane Rattigan, Nancy Jolly, Dottie Hoover, Barbara Johnson, Jon Billings and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wasserott, advisors.

Shavertown

by Charlot Denmon
675-0419

Nancy Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Young, 26 Ferguson Ave., Shavertown, has been accepted by Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Nancy is a senior at Dallas Senior High School.

PO3C Thomas Orf is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Orf, 124 E. Overbrook Ave., Shavertown. PO Orf is stationed at the naval base in Norfolk, Va.

Carl Hirner, 36 Perrin Ave., Shavertown, is back in the Veterans Administration Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where he is a medical patient.

Rosa Blank, Edgewood Heights, is a patient in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Ruth Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lewis, 96 Summit St., is the guest of her parents over the holidays. Miss Lewis is a student at Westchester State College. Mr. Lewis is band director at Dallas Senior High School.

Lake Legion Gives Party for Children

Harveys Lake American Legion, Post 967, held children's Christmas party Dec. 19 at the Lake Elementary School. Chairman was Tom Casey. Members of the committee were: Cmdr. Francis Fisher, Al Barcheski, George Jones, Arthur Gosart, Bob Urdella, Howard Jones and Gene Tilgham.

The Legion donated a flag to the Outlet Brownie Troop. Scout Leader is Jean Wood. The game commissioner showed a movie on wild life.

Christmas carols were sung, Santa presented all children up to 12 years old with gifts and candy.

The Legion would like to thank the auxiliary who helped serve refreshments and anyone who donated gifts and helped make the party the huge success it was.

C.T. Employees Visit Hospitalized Children

On December 22, employees of Commonwealth Telephone Company held their fourth annual tour of the children's wards of area hospitals. At each stop children in the wards were presented with gifts made by Commonwealth employees as part of this project.

The Commonwealth group met with youngsters and nurses of the children's wards at Nesbitt, Pittston, General, Wyoming Valley, Mercy and Nanticoke State hospitals.

Central Graduate Plans Marriage

Ann Marie Pieczynski recently announced her engagement to Joseph A. Hometchko, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hometchko, 184 Owen St., Swoyersville. Ann Marie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin A. Pieczynski, 123 Church St., Dallas.

She is a graduate of Central Catholic High School and is employed by Affiliated Vendors Inc., Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Hometchko is also a graduate of Central Catholic High School and attended Scranton University. He is presently attending Aviation Electronics School in the United States Coast Guard.

Library Circulation Up Despite Storm

The board of directors of the Back Mountain Memorial Library met recently at the home of Homer Moyer, Split Rail Lane, Dallas.

Sue Davern, librarian, reported that despite the snow-storm at Thanksgiving there was an increase in circulation in November. Fifty children were present for the monthly film presentation on the Wednesday following the storm when parking was still a problem. Among those in attendance were children from the newly organized child care day center held at the Dallas United Methodist Church.

The annual story hour Christmas party was held this year by Bonnie Joseph, a Junior League volunteer. Mrs. Joseph is in charge of the double sessions and the combined groups for films and parties.

Clarke Bittner, 1972 auction chairman, announced that William Umphred will be his co-chairman along with Frank Bevevino. Following the meeting refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Moyer.

Santa Came To Idetown

The Jonathan R. Davis Volunteer Fire Company of Idetown held their children's Christmas party Dec. 19 at the firehall. Santa distributed gifts to about 200 children.

Chairmen were Ronald Ritts and Harold Haesle. Refreshments were served by the auxiliary.



The children's ward at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital was among those visited by Commonwealth employees, who distributed presents to the little ones. Left to right, Nancy Martin, holding Kevin Blockus; Chairman Anthony Botyrius; Nurse Anita Simko; Bernadine Stephens, holding Jodi Lyn Amos; Paulette Slavinskas; Barbara Lapinski and Sue Allabaugh.

Misericordia Ends Fall Semester With President's Christmas Dinner

College Misericordia officially ended its fall semester last Wednesday evening with the annual President's Christmas dinner held in Merrick Hall for over 200 members of the administration, faculty, and staff of the college.

CM To Offer Grad. History Course in Feb.

"The History of the American Presidency," a three-credit, graduate history course, will be offered by the graduate studies division of College Misericordia for the spring semester, according to Sister Marianna Gidea, RSM, director. The course will be offered on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11. The graduate course is being offered under the auspices of a cooperative program between College Misericordia and the University of Scranton. Successful completion of the course will result in three graduate credits being issued by the University of Scranton.

The history course will begin at College Misericordia Feb. 5, with registration being held Feb. 1 and 2 from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. The instructor will be Dr. Robert J. Alexander.

Guests were treated to a buffet dinner created by Saga Food Services that included prime roast rib of beef, lobster Newburg, shrimp, and numerous other dishes. Following dinner, a concert of chamber music was provided

by the Liva String Quartet under the direction of Ferdinand Liva. Sister Miriam Teresa, RSM, president of College Misericordia, concluded the affair by wishing all guests the peace of the holiday season and best wishes for the new year.

Valley Crest Party Hosted By Welcome Wagon Club

The Welcome Wagon Club of Wyoming Valley sponsored its annual Christmas party for the guests at Valley Crest recently. Helping to make the evening a festive occasion were members of College Misericordia's glee club, who provided musical entertainment.

Following the program the club members and their families distributed the gifts of cookie-filled sleighs, made by the members, to the residents. Mrs. William Alexander served as gift chairman.

The Welcome Wagon Club board will meet Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. at the U.G.I. building, Kingston. The next membership meeting is scheduled for Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Acme Auditorium, Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville. The evening will include a covered dish supper followed by a "Fashion Show" with club members modeling articles they have made. All newcomers to the area are invited to attend.

Shopping Tip—Extension consumer specialists at The Pennsylvania State University say when you go grocery shopping, shop alone, shop with a list, and never shop when you're hungry. If you do all these things, you'll spend less money on your weekly food bill.

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