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**MAGAZINE
OF**

2021

Country Music

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THE MAGAZINE OF COUNTRY MUSIC CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND FINAL ISSUE!

By Martha Burczyk

(With thanks to Traci, Tina, and Tommy Jr. for their contributions to the story)



Publisher, **Tom Tesnow**, has decided to say farewell to his long-running publication after 40 years but has no plans to relinquish his band manager status just yet, continuing to book bands as he has done since the 1980s. He is planning two farewell parties on successive Saturdays in August - on the **14th and 21st of the month - in Center Line, Michigan** (See inside back cover for address and schedule of events.) The events will include several bands each day along with four 50/50 raffles at each event, with tickets to benefit **The Center Line Lions Club** on both dates. There will also be a donation table for the **Historical Society of Center Line**. A good time will be had by all!

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Tom was born in Findlay, Ohio in 1952 to very humble beginnings. His father, Bob, was a steel lathe operator at Garwood Industries and his mother, Sue, was a waitress and cook. Their modest house (out in a heavily wooded area) had no inside plumbing; they didn't have inside plumbing until Tom entered high school. He began playing music at a young age with his two brothers, Larry and Ron, five and ten years older, respectively.



Tom got his first drum kit at the age of 13, but before that, his talent was revealed as he drummed on one-, two-, and three-pound cans of Maxwell House coffee that his mom gave him - a true sign of someone born with the beat! His brothers, Ron and Larry, and Tom formed the **Tesnow Brothers Band**.

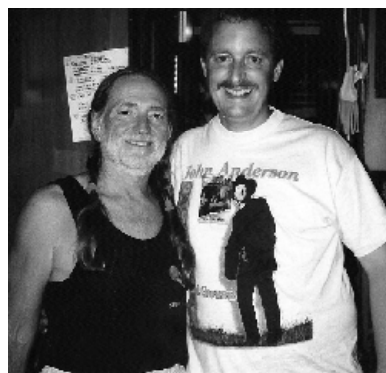


They played at Tom's high school, campgrounds and bars. His first paid gig with an outside band happen when he was 15. Tom would sit in with local talent whenever he could.

When his brother, Ron, joined the Navy the brothers began playing in different states where Ron was stationed including Virginia, Ohio, and Michigan. They played together until Ron was stationed out of the country.

MAJOR MUSICAL INFLUENCES

"I saw Minnie Pearl at an event in Findlay, but unfortunately never had the pleasure of meeting her." Like many other Baby Boomers in the 1960s, Tom was influenced by the Beatles, as well as Credence Clearwater Revival (CCR), George Jones, Jerry Lee Lewis (interviewed by Tom later for this magazine), Willie Nelson, Carl Perkins, Jack Greene, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Roger Miller "King of the Road"... and last but not least, "Elvis Presley, of course!"



Willie Nelson and Tom

ON THE ROAD

From 1971 to about 1975, brothers Tom and Larry Tesnow and Denny Lytle formed the band, **Green River**. **"We loved doing CCR, and that was one of their songs!"**



Tom left the band and hit the road with his first wife, Beth, and eight-week-old daughter, Traci, in the hopes of some day being Elvis Presley's drummer. **("Boy was I ever naive back then")** joining

Larry Lee and the Rascals in Minneapolis/St. Paul. They performed there, St. Cloud, and other Minnesota cities. They performed covers from Elvis, CCR, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, and many more top radio-played artists; Tom would pull out the Gene Krupa drum solo from Caravan. With the usual drama and bad habits bands tend to find while living on the road, Tom eventually quit the band.

Tom's agent, **Norm Forest**, got him an opportunity to form a band to back up **The Hager Twins** from Hee-Haw fame, for a couple fair shows.



"We rehearsed Jim and John's (Hager) album, 'Motherhood, Apple Pie, and the Flag' and we had a great time. The Hagers really enjoyed my daughter, Traci; although, she was too young to remember that time. Jim was playing my Yamaha acoustic when he accidentally bumped it on a bleacher bench at the fairground and made a little crack at the bottom of it. At the time, I was just happy that he was playing on it."

Tom's agent then contacted him to see if he was interested in moving to Colorado Springs to join **The Vern Thomson Show** at a club known as, **The Godfather**, playing six days a week. Tom accepted and he and his young family headed for Colorado Springs. "Being that I was playing Country & Western, Elvis songs, and Rock & Roll, I never really heard of Western Swing, which I had to learn in the band. Vern

(bandleader) was from Waco, Texas and played fiddle, lead guitar, and sang with a strong low Texas voice. He was formerly a drummer in Texas and moved up to Colorado Springs to front his own band. He turned out to be a great friend and showed me how to play Western Swing on the drums. We played all over Colorado and Texas. We were a six-piece band and covered most of the top country songs on the radio."

"While living in Colorado Springs, I also secretly moonlighted playing guitar and singing during the afternoon happy hours to make extra money. Sometimes the job interfered with band rehearsals, until the band surprised me a couple months later and came to the club in the audience I was playing and gave me an ultimatum to quit moonlighting or leave the band. I stayed with the band."

"The band also was offered to do some studio work in Denver about 60 miles north of Colorado Springs with Jody Copley and I played on 'Ain't That My Luck' and the B Side 'I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love with You)'."



Feeling the strain of the road with his wife and daughter, and trying to save the marriage, Tom left Vern Thomson and headed back East. "It was one of the hardest things I ever had to do was to quit Vern and the band. We both were in tears and hoped that one day we could perform together again. Unfortunately, that never happened." (Editor's note: A

local known fiddler, **Billy Hamblin** (currently with Family Tradition) also played in Vern Thomson's band a couple years after Tom left the band. Then Billy and Tom met later in the Detroit Metro Area and Billy has played for **Arizona Son**, a band that Tom has formed over 20 years ago.

Tom took a job in Salina, Kansas with **Red Young and The Youngins**. "I learned a lot from Red and his band. He had recorded a country song that was being played on local radio stations in Kansas, and had a great style - not only country, but different kinds of music including the Grateful Dead. I played with the band that whole summer and felt I had to leave for Ohio to try to save my marriage. The band didn't want me to leave the group, so they came with me. That was incredible even though there wasn't enough work for an out-of-state band, and we didn't have an agent to help us at the time."

"Eventually, Red and the band went back to Kansas. A few months later Red asked me to play drums with him for an audition in Kansas City, Missouri, which I did, and then I returned to Ohio. After a marriage separation for a period of time, we ended up getting a divorce. I stayed in the area performing to be in touch with my daughter."

Traci, like her father, is musically inclined (brass instruments) and is now 46 years old. She attended Bowling Green State University after high school and has accomplished so much in her personal and professional life. Presently, she is the Marketing and Business Development Leader at Nooter Toledo. She is also very involved in her community and serves as Vice President on her local school board. Traci has a successful and supportive husband, Mike, who is also musical (played guitar in numerous bands when he was younger) and is the Director of

Operations at a specialty metals company with locations in Michigan and Arizona. They have two beautiful and intelligent children. Tom's grandson, Logan (16), is a high honors student and plays the drums. His granddaughter, London (11), loves school and joins the band this year playing percussion or the trombone (she's undecided). Tom is very proud of all of them!

"I had formed a band in Norwalk, Ohio, where we played in Port Clinton, Sandusky, Fremont and other clubs around Lake Erie. In the meantime, after leaving him a few years before in St. Paul, Larry Lee wanted me to play drums and sing with his band again and was trying to track me down until he found me at the club I was playing in Norwalk. He asked me to rejoin his new band and move from Ohio. He really liked my high harmonies in the band and gave me the name, "Tender Tom" in the band because I liked singing a lot of love ballads." Tom laughs. "Larry had an agent, Paul Wade, who owned International Talent Agency out of Michigan who booked Larry and the band in Minnesota, Indiana, and in Michigan."

While playing at this club in Canton called 'The Red Door Lounge' (later called Lucille's) we were trading every other set with an Elvis impersonator called, Elvis Shelton, which local guitarist, Tommy Buck was playing with Shelton. When Larry Lee, Junior (our guitar player,) and I were outside on our break having a cigarette, this bass player, Paul (Wiley) Smith, who wasn't old enough to come into the club, came up to Larry, and asked him if he was the band leader, and Larry said, Yes, what's up? Paul said that he was listening outside and said the bass player was lousy, and Larry should give Paul an audition and gave him his card. Junior and I was laughing about it, because Paul

didn't know that he was talking to the bass player (Larry) and left. Larry (being a guitar player) could not sing and play bass very well at the same time. Larry said to Junior and I, 'What do you think of that? I told Larry that he should give Paul an audition. He did and hired him!

"There was this time in November where we played in Wayne, Michigan, and the owner of the club booked us for two weeks. After finishing the first week, the owner told Larry that he had double booked another band by mistake. As a road band you normally lived paycheck to paycheck, and we weren't expecting to be off for a week. The club owner told Larry that he could come back and play for their New Year's Eve party. Larry said okay, but we would not be back to set up until early evening on New Year's Eve, because we were coming from out of town. New Year's Eve came and we were performing in Morton, Minnesota. So the club owner in Wayne had no band that night! Although Larry and the band got screwed out of that week, so did the owner on New Year's Eve night. We were never invited to come back to that club in Wayne again. Larry seemed to always know what to do for things like that! lol"



In 1979 Tom and Paul Smith played on Larry Lee's, "The One Who's Always Cheating (Got Cheated on Tonight)" and "Gonna Have Happy Days." I remember Paul and I driving

on the Interstate when the "The One Who's Always Cheating" came on the air, and we were very happy and excited! Larry Lee changed his band name to Larry Lee Adkins and the Hanging Tree. Larry went on to Nashville to record a number one favorite on WCXI in Detroit, "Hey Mister (I'm In Love with Your Wife)" which got a lot of airplay in the area. "We ended up doing a house gig at a club in Mt. Clemens called the Hayloft. Larry Lee and I had our differences, mainly with the other band members and myself. In a period of about four or five years, I quit Larry Lee twice, and he fired me twice, but we remained friends."

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS... BUT NOT STOPPING!

Tesnow met his second wife, Christine, in 1979, decided to make Michigan his home, and got off the road. Tom and Christine quickly fell in love, married, and added to the family as Christine had two children from a previous marriage, Lisa and Steven.



Christine, Charlie Daniels, and Tom

Tom played with several different bands including The Ted York Show, Dave Atkins and Guy Clark, Swanee Caldwell, Southern Breeze (now Cadillac Cowboys), the Bob Moss Band, and other gigs in Michigan and Canada. While playing with The Ted York Show in Windsor, Ted booked studio time in Nashville and the next morning after playing Windsor we were heading

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**Thank you, Tom, for 40 years of
The Country Music Magazine!**

to Nashville, **"I decided to quit the band because I didn't want to leave Christine. A few weeks later, I still went down to Nashville to write, play and see if there was a place for me there. I stayed with a friend, X Lincoln (cousin to Justin Tubbs), and the highlight of being down there was playing at the Possum Holler in Printer's Alley (at that time owned by Kenny Rogers, because George Jones lost the club due to bankruptcy,) and being at the Grand Ole Opry backstage with all the entertainers."**

A VENTURE INTO PUBLISHING

While playing drums in a band for Dave Atkins, who published Country in The City News out of Romulus, Dave asked Tom to write about local and regional events in Macomb & Oakland counties. Dave sent Tom to the Silverdome to interview George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Carl Perkins, father/

daughter duo The Kendalls, Don Gibson, and others. "George Lindsey, well-known for his role as Goober on the Andy Griffith Show, was emcee of the event and taught me what to ask and be myself during an interview." East Side News became a regular column in Atkins' paper. Some of Tom's articles made it to other, larger publications around the United States.

Just over a year later Tom and Dave had a disagreement regarding advertising commissions and found themselves as competitors. Tom decided to publish his own East Side News Country Magazine and began selling advertising and writing. He learned more about publishing from libraries and friends. **Ron Fredrick** (currently a council member at St. Clair Shores), had a publication called "What's On" with cable and TV listings. Tom saw the publication at a store, and decided to call Ron and he helped Tom launch the first issue; his wife, **Dar (Darlene) Fredrick** did the typesetting for galleys, the proofs before going to press.

EAST SIDE NEWS TO THE MAGAZINE OF COUNTRY MUSIC

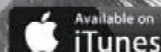
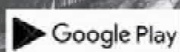


Starting at 3,000 copies a month, the free copies were then dropped off at high-traffic areas such as grocery stores, restaurants, party stores, doctors' offices, etc., which later yielded to a readership of over 40,000. An ingenious method for exposure of the new publication!

"If it wasn't for God, family, and business friends encouraging me to continue and 'Keep It Country,' I wouldn't have made it 40 plus years."

"I do want to recognize Blue Grass writer, Barb Zill, who started writing for me in June of 1981 until now; Scott C. Price for doing dozens of interviews (the last one a few years ago with Eric Burdon of the Animals); Scott Colburn, of Scott Colburn Western Wear in Livonia, was a big supporter of The Magazine of Country Music (MCM) and I for over 40 years; 9 Mile Rental in Warren also advertising with me for over 40 years; my son, Steven Fogel, who has worked with me for over 20 years; my son, Tommy Jr., for working with the MCM and my band projects for over 20 years as well. There are a lot of people to thank, but there wouldn't be enough pages through all these years, so Thank You!"

The Long Awaited NEW CD From Alan Turner



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ALAN TURNER NEW ALBUM OUT MID-AUGUST 2021!

Alan Turner is set to release a brand-new album featuring several hit singles he's put out in the last couple years. *That's Why They Make Beer*, *Let Go* and recent single, *Vintage* are all part of the 12 song compilation called "Captain Ron's Lost Hacienda".

"We were up in northern Minnesota performing at the Shooting Star Casino in -24 degree weather in January and looking forward to an upcoming show the following week in the much warmer Key West, Florida... when the idea came to me. So we all spent the weekend joking about my sound engineer, Ron (who I call Captain Ron), owning a tropical resort off the coast of Mexico... the following week a song was written, called **Captain Ron's Lost Hacienda** and the title track of the next album was born." Remarked Alan.

This marks the 6th studio album Alan has put out and is released through his label MC1 Nashville and distributed by SONY Music the Orchard.

ROLLOR



In 1984, *Rollor* “rolled” off the presses as a complement to East Side News, covering rock and roll, R&B, punk, and new wave acts such as Michael Jackson, The Gregg Allman Band, Billy Joel, Berlin, and Stevie Ray Vaughn. Tom’s first interview for the *Rollor* Magazine was with The Tubes (“White Punks on Dope”). It was the craziest concert I ever went to that the band was dressed in retro English Clothes, with High Heels and sniffing their snuff boxes while singing their number one hit, and the audience standing on their chairs chanting, “White Punks On Dope!” It was a great interview later and I never will forget the setting that night?”

The publication ran for eight months until Tom had his second cancer surgery – more on that later - and decided to continue the Country Music Magazine and drop *Rollor*. He was selling advertising from his hospital bed while recovering from surgery.

“I was in my hospital bed in pain although the medicines sure helped a lot. The patient in the bed next to me was asking what I was doing on the phone all the time selling advertisement, etc.” I said I was in business for myself, and no one else would be doing it for me.”

FOREVER COUNTRY

WCXI and W4 were the country music radio stations that played the latest country songs, and had information, events, entertainment, **“and everything country back in those days!”**

Also in 1984, during the Marlboro Country Concert at the Joe Louis Arena, Tom was interviewing Merle Haggard for the fourth time or so. Haggard brought Tom on the stage with him while he performed his show. What a thrill for Tom to see the concert from the stage itself! **“When Merle was done with his show, he introduced me to the audience and showed the magazine and yelled to them to look for him on the cover of next month’s publication.”** The country magazine could not have received any better exposure than that! Merle use to pose with other artists for me to take photos of them together.”



Merle Haggard and Tom

In 1989, Tom’s Country Magazine was asked to be the Country Music Media Sponsor for a huge show at the Silverdome in Pontiac called, **‘This Country’s Rockin.’** “Ted Nugent was the emcee, and they had some great Rock & Roll and Country national acts including Carl Perkins, Dwight Yoakam, Sawyer Brown, Desert Rose Band, Highway 101, Stray Cats, Steven Stills, and many more. It ran from 3:00pm until 3:00am. It was two weeks before the regular Downtown Hoedown at the Hart Plaza in Detroit, when a

call came from California asking me to promote **‘This Country’s Rockin’**. PBS aired it on television on July 4th for the next six years.”

In the ensuing years, Tesnow created the band, Arizona Son, and at one time had over 100 bands on his booking roster, booking locally and internationally in the United States and Canada.

He presently manages and books Devin Scillian with Arizona Son. Devin, is a prominent anchor for Channel 4 News in Detroit, as well as being a talented singer, songwriter, and author of many children’s books.



“It’s been almost 20 years since I have been working with Devin – he’s such a great ‘down to earth’ person on and off the air!”

Tom has been booking and promoting the **Tommy Steele Band** for a long time, all over the country including Las Vegas, Tulsa, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and many more states.



“One of my favorite songs of Tommy Steele that really got me hooked was ‘Forever 17’. He has over 8 videos televised all over the country with a

recent #1 song in Italy (of all places.)” Tommy has shared the stage with a lot of national acts as well as being the headliner himself.

“Alan Turner and the Steel Horse Band is a big supporter of the magazine, which even though he has his own booking agent, I get a few bookings for him every year as well. He has many songs released and he also shared the stage with Kenny Rogers before Kenny passed away. Alan does a Kenny Rogers Tribute Show now in memory of his friend.”



Tom's favorite Elvis impersonator is Sherman Arnold who has been performing since 1955. He also does tributes to Roy Orbison and Marty Robbins, and has been inducted into the Country Music Tribute Artists Hall of Fame as well as other awards. “I have so much respect for Sherman. He's from the old school and still calls an egg, an egg! He says that he is not Elvis, and that he only sings a tribute to the ‘King!’ One of my favorite songs that Sherman sings is Sonny James “Young Love!”



Tom has booked many Nashville national acts including John Anderson, Terri Clark, Peggy Lee, Ronnie McDowell, John Conley and others.



John Anderson and Tom

“I used to work at a supper club called ‘The Northwind’ near Findlay, Ohio, where my mom, Sue Tesnow, was a waitress and got me a job in the kitchen (at 12 years old) washing dishes and stocking the beer coolers. They had a speaker in the kitchen, and they played country music on the radio. “One of my earliest influences in country music was Jack Greene. He won the first CMA Award ‘Song of the Year’ for “There Goes My Everything,” which was number one on the country charts for seven straight weeks. Little did I know that I would be in a band in Colorado Springs years later opening for him while he traveled with Ernest Tubb and the Texas Troubadours. About 15 years later, I had him come up from Nashville, and my band learned all his songs and backed him for four shows.”

The oldest band Tom has written about has been around since 1979: founder, Rick Niemi's band, Shotgun Willie.



“One time I had an interview to do a Downriver (southern suburban Detroit) Country

Show with Michelle Wright “Take It Like A Man,” arranged just before she did her show. When I got out of the car in the parking lot, I heard a big roar from the crowd, and thought I had missed my interview with Michelle, but turned out it was for Shotgun Willie. That was the first time I had heard that kind of thundering response for a local band. It was great!”

GOD, FAMILY, COMMUNITY

Tom had a medical diagnosis of cancer – melanoma surgery, then lymph node cancer that led to a devastating prognosis of six months to live. He had a family, including two small children, and a loving wife. He could not conceive of them having to live without a father and husband around. Tom gave his life to Jesus Christ and testifies that God saved his life and soul. Tom told this writer that since 1984, “everything else is gravy”!

Tom attends a men's weekly prayer group and truly is thankful to God in his everyday life. Since Tom was healed of cancer he felt encouraged to give back to various charities by coordinating many jamborees in southeastern Michigan and Toledo, helping to raise a lot of money and awareness for: **The American Cancer Society, Macomb County Child Abuse Neglect Information Council (MCCANIC); PAL (Police Athletic League); Muscular Dystrophy; Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital and Burn Center; Center Line Lions Club;** and many other charities and individuals. He was nominated for the **Macomb County Volunteer of The Year Award in 1999.** Tom is humbled by the recognition, but the work is not done for that reason.

He was asked to join the **Center Line Lions Club** by sponsor **Terry Faulbaum** (superintendent of Center Line Schools) that same year, and Tom



is a proud member of the Center Line Lions. **“The Center Line Lions (and Lions International) are one of the very few organizations that give back 100% of all their fund raising to the community (members pay their own way). The funds are distributed to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Penrickton Center for Blind Children, Beaumont Silent Children, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Bear Lake, Children’s Leukemia Foundation, Scholarships awarded to Center Line High School graduates, and much, much more.”**

Tom is blessed with a blended family of five children, two together with Christine, ten grandchildren, and another grandchild on the way. As my daughter Traci has said, **“We are not half, step or anything else, we are all family!”** Tom’s wife, Christine, is retired from a local school district and now focuses on caring for the family and spending time with friends.



Their daughter, Tina, went to college at Wayne State University and received her Doctorate in Education from University of Michigan - Dearborn. She currently leads the English as a Second Language (ESL) department at Warren Consolidated Schools. She holds many presentations about ESL and is dedicated to her profession. Tina and her husband are expecting their first child in October.

Tom’s family have been extremely supportive of Tom, his music, and the East Side News publications (including The Magazine of Country Music) and they also enjoy hearing local bands, including Arizona Son and Tommy Jr’s band!

Tom’s youngest son, Tommy Jr., is a musician and began playing drums at 7 years old.

“I was putting on a benefit jamboree at this club called, ‘Fat Cat’s’ in Flat Rock. Tommy came with me, and Tommy would normally do a sound check on the drums for me, so I could go out front and check the balance. Tommy didn’t expect this, but I brought my guitar and had the house band, West Texas Wind, start the set early, the house lights went off, stage lights went on, and before Tommy knew it, he was playing drums for the band at 11 years old. The drummer for West Texas Wind came in and was blown away from this young kid playing drums.”

Since then, Tommy went to play drums on several U.S. tours. He’s played with numerous bands including No Alternative, Alucard, Wyndfall (grammy nominated celtic folk band), Blasé Splee, The None-Others, and now with his own band, The KufflinkS. They tour and



perform at different venues: Cadillac Straits in Madison Heights; Detroit Fleet in Ferndale, and at many city concerts, etc. Tommy Jr. does studio work for artists around the globe, and is also a fine videographer and graphic artist for East Side News and other publications”

STILL PUBLISHING

Tom Tesnow has always loved American history. In fact, he finished first in his SAT scores to represent his high school at the SAT competition at Findlay College. Bringing that passion forward, Tom also publishes historical anniversary publications for local cities in Oakland and Macomb counties. **“I always enjoy historical research and to promote cities, historical commissions and historical societies. These cities all need love and support from their communities - residents as well as business owners - in trying to keep their history alive for all to enjoy. I am a proud charter member of the Historical Society of Center Line.”** Please check out their website: centerlinehistory.org.

LET’S CELEBRATE!

There are many aspects of Tom Tesnow’s life that really are the makings of country songs in their truest form! Tom has been an inspiration to all ages, a man true to his word, a devoted family man, loves to play (musical instruments and in life). This writer is proud to have met him and to have had the opportunity to work together.

Thank you for your inspiration, candor, and kindness. Congratulations and all the best in your continuing endeavors, Tom Tesnow!

Now let’s have a couple of parties to celebrate 40 years of the Magazine of Country Music! and give it a great send-off!

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TAKING A FINAL COUNTRY LOOK AROUND TOWN

It's a sad moment for me to say, "This is it"! I hope someone else will step up and promote our area's country music entertainers.

Thanks to all the entertainers playing at our farewell parties:

Saturday, August 14,
Arizona Son: Al Carmichael;
Michael Powell; Ricky Jones;
Tom Tesnow; with special
guests: Chet Williams; Paul
Wiley Smith; Lynnae (Winnie)
Rembisz; and Harvey Miller.
Alan Turner and the Steel
Horse Band (Jim Kaatz, Mark
Watson, Randy Lopez,
Cameron Miller, and Jacki
Daniels); Waco (Dean &
Tammy); Tommy Steele Band
(Rick, Dennis, and Bruce); and
Sherman Arnold (Elvis Tribute!)

Saturday, August 21,
Common Ground ; Thrift Shop
Cowboys; The KufflinkS
(Tommy Tesnow Jr.; Dave
Jakubowski, Niko Eklund, and
Warren Liverance.) Matt King
(Elvis Tribute!); Moose & Da
Sharks; Devin Scillian w/
Arizona Son (JR Rickard, Joe
Osborne, Rusty Rhodes, Jim
Nelson, and Michael Powell);
and Gerry Bee & The
Bluescasters. (Thanks also to
Christine Tesnow & Coleen
Miller for taking care of the food!

God bless you and yours!!



We love you, Tom!

-Niko, Warren, Dave, Tommy

thekufflinks.com



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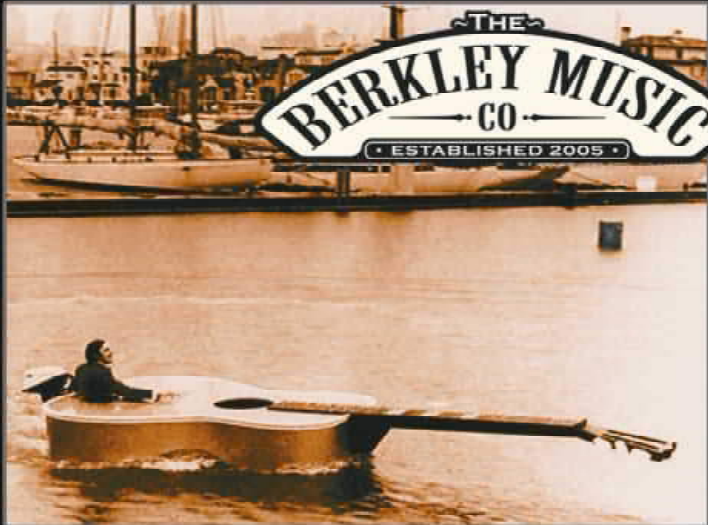
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CHRIS JANSON NEWS

Acclaimed entertainer **Chris Janson** is known as much for his high-octane performances as he is for championing the people who make country music a community. On August 25 he will take the historic stage at the Ryman Auditorium for the 14th Annual Academy of Country Music Honors as both performer and presenter. Janson will help commemorate the incredible behind-the-scenes talent of country music. The event, which will air as a television special later this year, will be livestreamed on Circle Network's social channels.

Janson will continue to celebrate country music with a career milestone: his Bonnaroo debut. The larger-than-life stage-shaker will cap the Grand Ole Opry at Bonnaroo 2021 event on Thursday, Sept. 2 with a finale performance. Invited by **Keith Urban** and inducted by **Garth Brooks**, Janson has been an esteemed member of the Opry since March of 2018.



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Meanwhile, the dogged road warrior is on the road for his Back At It tour dates. The run spans nearly every single weekend from now through October and features headlining performances, festivals, fairs and special events. With new music

on the horizon, fans can look forward to hearing more from Janson in the coming months.

About Chris Janson:

Who is Chris Janson? *He's a "live legacy in the making" (Rolling Stone).* The three-time CMA nominee has collected prestigious accolades that place him amongst country music greats. He took home the trophy for ACM Video of the Year for his Gold-certified, inspiring hit song **"Drunk Girl,"** which also earned the Song of the Year title at the 2018 MusicRow Awards. His chart-topping, 3x Platinum smash **"Buy Me A Boat"** earned the same NSAI honor. **"Good Vibes,"** the flagship single from his 2019 album *Real Friends*, and follow-up **"Done"** both topped the country charts, bringing his total of No.1 hits to four — and now the hit-maker has new music on the horizon. In addition to his own successes, the talented songwriter has lent his pen to industry peers including **Tim McGraw** (**"Truck Yeah,"** **"How I'll Always Be"**), **LOCASH** (**"I Love This Life"**) and the legendary **Hank Williams Jr.** (**"God Fearin' Man,"** **"Those Days Are Gone"**).



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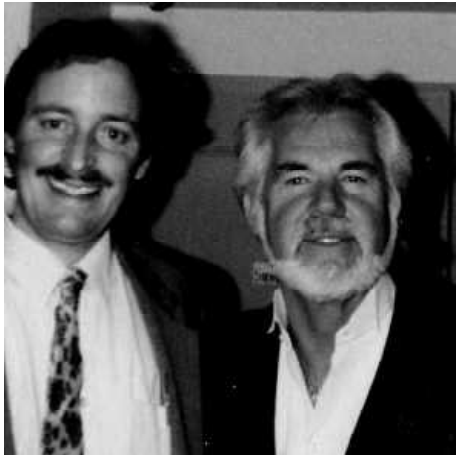
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TOMMY STEELE

HOW GOOD IS GOOD GONNA GET

The latest new music from the **Tommy Steele Band** had it's television world premiere on the *Heartland Network*. "**How Good Is Good Gonna Get**."

The new music and video penned by **Tommy Steele, Jack Williams, and Troy Johnson**, tells the story of seeing the good all around us, relationships, friendships, family and all the things that mean so much. "**We are blessed with an amazing adventure so far and we are excited about what's yet to come**" Steele says.

This following the previous releases this past year "**Rockin' Both Sides**", "**How The Hell Did I Get Here**," and "**What I Gotta Do**" shows the complete diversity of brilliance the Tommy Steele Band is capable of.



With a distinctive and immediately identifiable sound, the **Tommy Steele Band** is a blend on influences that brings together the edgy musicianship and rocked-out passion from **Garth Brooks, Eric Church, early Allman Brothers Band** and **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, with the raw, sparse, lyrical sense of **Springsteen**.

Steele, the Michigan native has performed at three CMA Music Festivals in Nashville. He's toured the country and shared stages with megastars **LeAnn Rimes, Gretchen Wilson, Little Big Town, Big & Rich, Blackberry Smoke, Dwight Yoakam** and more. He has hosted the national syndicated TV show *The Country Fix* and worked on projects with **Kevin Costner** and his band, **Modern West**. He has four studio records out and has released eight music videos of his own to date.

Reigning in six successful radio singles that have charted on the Country, Inspirational Country, Adult Contemporary and Rock charts, The Tommy Steele Band is comprised of "A" list musicians that have been a part of other chart topping successful touring groups, and like Tommy, hail from the Great Lakes State of Michigan including **Rick Brainer, Dennis Mitchell** and **Bruce Mechan**.

To learn more visit tommysteeleband.com. Catch the Tommy Steele Band on tour in support of their new music available on all music digital outlets.

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MARTINA McBRIDE CELEBRATES COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Country music icon, **Martina McBride**, has been releasing anthemic music with a message for thirty years. Her legendary career is a blend of profound and bold statement songs brought to life by her soaring vocals. In honor of Martina's cultural impact and sheer talent, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum have opened their latest exhibit, *Martina McBride: The Power of Her Voice*.

On Tuesday, July 27th, Martina visited the curated exhibit - which runs from July 30th, 2021 to August 7, 2022 - that includes items from her childhood, standout wardrobe pieces from various awards shows and performances, special highlights such as her Grand Ole Opry induction by **Loretta Lynn**, and of course her numerous awards and accolades. Following remarks by CEO of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, **Kyle Young**, Martina shared a few words about this milestone in her life to a room filled with collaborators, friends, family and notably, **Garth Brooks**, who hired Martina to sell merchandise on the road before booking her as his opening



act after hearing her angelic voice.

"I am beyond thrilled to have my own exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame," said Martina. "I'm so touched and moved by it. Thank you guys for sharing this special, special moment with me. This is surreal and overwhelming," said the always humble star about her museum honor. "It is a dream come true."

Martina returned to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's CMA Theatre on August 1st for a live conversation with special performance and live Q&A with fans. The Country music powerhouse performed her hits "Love's The Only House,"

"Wild Angels," "This One's For The Girls," and "Independence Day." The sold-out program was filmed and will premiere on Tuesday, August 31st, as part of the museum's Live at the Hall digital series - available to stream on the museum's YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and website. Martina was also honored at the event by **Jackie Jones** of the RIAA, who presented her with plaques commemorating 4 new

RIAA certifications - bringing her to a total of 20 million RIAA certified career units - and also a milestone 23 million in worldwide sales from her RCA catalogue.

Also, this year, Martina will be releasing two special edition vinyls - *Martina McBride Greatest Hits: The RCA Years* (available for pre-order now and on-sale August 20th) and her hit Christmas album, *White Christmas*.

Pre-order for this holiday classic is available now in standard black and a special snow white edition, available exclusively through Walmart on Oct. 1st.

MITCHELL TENPENNY DELIVERS “TRUTH ABOUT YOU” TO COUNTRY RADIO AFTER LARGEST STREAMING DEBUT OF CAREER

Riser House/Columbia Nashville artist **Mitchell Tenpenny** is delivering “Truth About You” to country radio after achieving the largest streaming debut of his career. After previewing the song on TikTok in early July, fans streamed the “powerful testimonial to heartbreak” (CMT) 2.5 million times in the first three days, and within a week the number doubled. As a result of this tremendous reaction, the song will impact country radio on August 16.

“I have the best and most reactive fans,” said Mitchell. “Their instantaneous feedback is invaluable to me as an artist. There is nothing more gratifying than making music for them.”

On Friday, August 6 Mitchell performed “**Truth About You**” as part of KTLA’s “Music Fest Fridays.” Written by Mitchell, **Matt Alderman and Thomas Archer**, “Truth About You” is the third new song Mitchell has released in 2021. The track will appear on an EP set to debut later this summer.

This fall, look for Mitchell to perform as a special guest on **Chris Young’s “Famous Friends Tour 2021,”** playing 13 arena and amphitheater dates October through December, kicking off October 21 at Little

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Rock, Arkansas’s First Security Amphitheater. Tickets are on-sale now at **chrisyoungcountry.com** and all shows will comply with local COVID-19 guidelines.

About Mitchell Tenpenny

Since the release of his debut single, “**Drunk Me,**” Riser House/Columbia Nashville artist Mitchell Tenpenny has set new standards for breakout success in country music. The 2X Platinum-certified, No. 1 hit that has amassed over 500 million on-demand streams was taken from

his introductory 2018 album, ***Telling All My Secrets***, and earned him the best first week showing for any major label country debut LP. Since that time, the “winning” singer (the New York Times) was nominated for New Male Artist of the Year at the ACM Awards and Breakthrough Video (“Drunk Me”) at the CMT Music Awards and saw his “**Alcohol You Later**” and “**Anything She Says**” singles certified gold.



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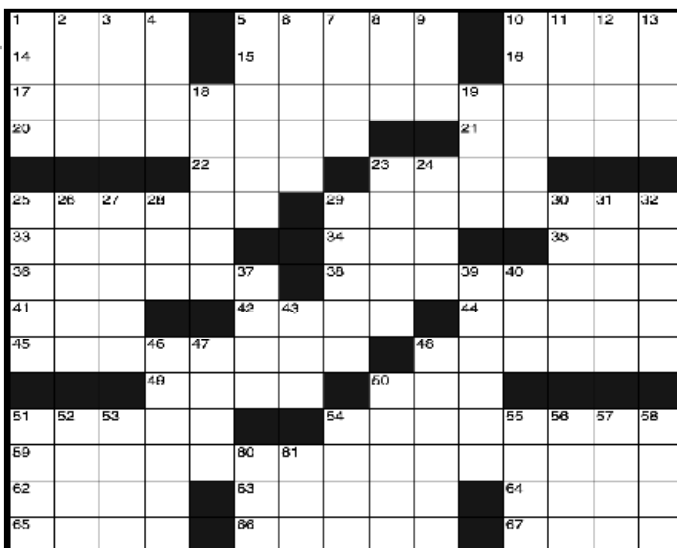
Ronnie Pugh, Librarian for The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, congratulates The Magazine of Country Music, now a part of their library archives. September of 1999.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Chinese cabbage
5. Ringworm
10. Expectorate
14. Article of clothing, pl.
15. Hydroxyls + 2C
16. German car
17. Agatha Christie myst, w/ "A"
20. Expungings
21. Sweeps
22. European fish
23. Hang glide
25. Humiliated
29. Times of day
33. Laid-back California county
34. Lyric poem
35. Rotating disk
36. Rubber or pencil
38. Womaniser
41. Horny projectng jaws of a bird
42. Abba ____, Israeli politician
44. Fire iron
45. Provencal verses
48. Most unpleasant
49. Shackle
50. Irritate
51. National capital of Ghana
54. Unshod
59. Western drink
62. Surrounded by
63. Pillars
64. Subject
65. Sheaf
66. Fightings
67. Tyrant

CLUES DOWN

1. Rear
2. Miri
3. Gnawing animal
4. Requests
5. IV
6. Conclude
7. Mind (Greek)
8. Measuring unit
9. Sign language
10. Hunting expedition
11. Indian seaport
12. Romantic interlude
13. Drawstrings
18. ____ O'Neill, playwright
19. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
23. Geographic region
24. Digits
25. After prayers
26. Pressure unit
27. Saddle horses
28. Female sibling
29. Soul and calypso songs
30. Garget
31. Overhang
32. Forward
37. Gambling town
39. Final climactic stage
40. Neither
43. Order
46. Denunciation
47. Asian country
48. Flows
50. Unoriginal
51. Mount
52. Molding
53. Overlay with wood
54. Morsel
55. Community
56. Paddles
57. Shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
58. Hurry
60. Father
61. Wildebeast

Mustard Word Find

Just in time for "National Mustard Day," see how many mustard related words you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| BROWN | MUSTARD | SPICY |
| CONDIMENT | PLANT | TANGY |
| HOTDOG | RECIPES | TORTING |
| MEAT | SEED | YELLOW |

U W X Z C R G L E A J C
B V O G V O J S P I C Y
R E C L D W U O I E G J
O C Z T L V R C C E B S
W W O F P E M O B E E J
N H G L T U Y N R J D H
W U A W S J A D K Z I O
T N V T A G N I P P O T
T A A T O B S M D E E S
H R N D A I I M E W A B I I
D O U G L E G N L I O U
J C B N Y Z M T E F Z V

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1934: ALCATRAZ OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE FIRST INMATES OF THIS SAN FRANCISCO BAY PRISON.
- 1954: AFTER YEARS OF FIGHTING, INDOCHINA WAS FREED OF FRENCH CONTROL.
- 1965: RIOTS ERUPTED IN THE WATTS SECTION OF LOS ANGELES, CA., THAT LASTED SIX DAYS.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1859: EDWIN DRAKE DUG THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL OIL WELL IN P.A.
- 1962: THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED THE MARINER II SPACE PROBE.
- 2003: MARS MADE ITS CLOSEST APPROACH TO THE EARTH IN 60,000 YEARS.

Food Scramble

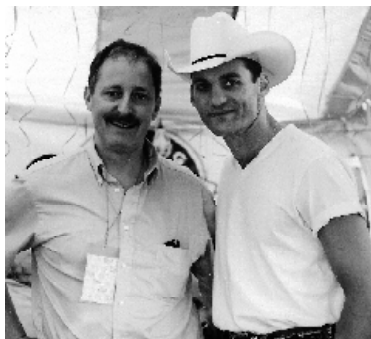
Unscramble the letters below and uncover some interesting trivia about mustard.

1. Mustard is enjoyed on hot dogs at B B L A L E A S games.
2. Many dip C N E K H I C in honey mustard.
3. Ground mustard seeds are mixed with N E V I R A G.
4. Some fast food chains put mustard on S B R U R L G.

Answers:
1. Baseball 2. Chicken 3. Vinegar 4. Burgers

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Tracy Byrd



Jack Greene



Tracy Lawrence



Bob Chism w/ Steel Traxx



Tom playing in Adak, Alaska (1974)



Vern Pilder

John Anderson's lead guitar player & Tom's best friend for over 40 years

BLUEGRASS NOTES

By: Barb Zill

I first want to thank **Tom Tesnow** for his support of Bluegrass music through his Magazine of Country Music and including my column for 40 years!

To have a local regional magazine is an asset for the artists and clubs and all the venues that they play. To reach the people, advertising is essential. I can personally vouch for the success of advertising.

I will include some of the results of the past years. *The Bluegrass Music International Pickin Magazine* published my interview with the **RFD Boys** of Ann Arbor MI and an article I wrote on **John Morris** and Old Homestead Records in their November 1976 issue.

John Morris and I are in the famous *Neil V Rosenberg Bluegrass History Book*, the 20th Anniversary Edition.

To add a few other highlights, the *Michigan Entertainment Music Magazine* Feb. 1978

within their RFD Boys Article mentioned Barb Zill is their Club Director and the International Fan Club with German and Japanese fans. The RFD Boys had not toured to entertain there yet. They did later on though.

The Ann Arbor News covered the RFD Boys 10th Anniversary party at the Pretzel Bell and made note that I was in charge of promotional and advertising for the RFD Boys. I can say it never seemed like work, it was all fun even though time consuming.

Results of the later The RFD Boys were on the cover of *The Bluegrass Unlimited* May 1975 issue.

Wendy Smith and his band Blue Velvet were in a major article in the April 1984 *Bluegrass Unlimited*.

I was fortunate to be contacted by the River Park Center in Owensboro Kentucky, they were building a brick walkway to the museum with inscriptions. I had them include The RFD Boys and one for Wendy Smith and Blue Velvet. They remain there for all visitors to see since February 1990.

I do need to thank John Morris as he was the one to contact

Wendy Smith for me to manage his Blue Velvet band.

Some of the artists in my column from the beginning are **Judy Howard, Roy Cobb, Mike Kegley, Butch Mason, Gary Adams, Paul & Danny Webb, Dana Cupp, Bo Kasay and Don White** and so many more.

Thanks also Tom Tesnow for all the country artists that I have covered over the years!

Editor's Note: Barb Zill wrote for us for over 40 years! We thank her for her contributions and great articles!

PHOTO CREDITS

JIM HINDY

BEN ERIKSSON

GEORGE HINDY

BOB SOLOWAY

JANET SLABAUGH

MARY VASILCHEK

JERRY SOMERVILLE

and everyone that I missed!!

ALSO THANK YOU TO:

MARTHA BURCZYK

SARAH COLBURN

DAN RICHARDS

RUSS CONNELLY

JUDY YOUNG

and everyone that I missed!!

HOROSCOPES

FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
When someone younger than you offers advice, take it. Just because you're older doesn't necessarily make you wiser. Benefit from the experiences of this other person.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
A big moneymaking opportunity comes your way. You may need to ask family for a loan to help you get involved in this investment. Not everyone will be receptive.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Make the most of a meeting with an old friend, Gemini. You haven't seen this person in a while, and you should make up for lost time. Head out for a night on the town.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
A financial situation puts you in the red for a few days, Cancer, until your next paycheck clears. You must be a bit more careful with your

money for the next month.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
That difficult situation at work has blown over, Leo, leaving you in the clear to resume your previous duties without distraction. Enjoy the minor victory.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
You've finally seen a light at the end of the tunnel, Virgo. Enjoy the the newfound positive attitude. Apply it to all areas of your life for maximum benefit.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
There are changes ahead, Libra. Unfortunately, you will not like them all. Make the most of the positive aspects and patiently wait for the negative ones to blow over.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
You're looking for a night out with the guys or gals, Scorpio. Make it happen now, because in a few weeks you'll be too busy to spare any time.

SAGITTARIUS-Nov 23/Dec 21
Put your best foot forward when you meet someone for

the first time this month, Sagittarius. This is your only chance to make a good impression, so make it count.

CAPRICORN-Dec 22/Jan 20
You don't always need to be the center of attention, Capricorn. Those around you are tired of shining the spotlight solely on you. Give others a chance for a change.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
There will be some good news in store for you this month, Aquarius. Don't drive yourself mad waiting for it to arrive. Go about your normal business.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
There are troubles brewing with a romantic partner, Pisces. You both just can't see eye to eye on anything. It's time to move on.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS:
DAN SMYERS
(DAN + SHAY) 8/16/87
CLAY WALKER 8/19/69
LEE ANN WOMACK 8/19/66
KENNY ROGERS 8/21/1938 - 3/20/2020

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | 6 | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | | 2 | 7 |
| 9 | | | 1 | 8 | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 |

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SAT, AUG 21, 11AM-8PM



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the STEEL HORSE BAND
2:30PM



THRIFT SHOP COWBOYS/
THE KUFFLINKS
1:00PM



TOMMY STEELE BAND
5:00PM



MOOSE & DA SHARKS
3:30PM



DEVIN SCILLIAN
5:00PM



SHERMAN ARNOLD'S
'TRIBUTE TO ELVIS'
7:00PM



GERRY BEE
and THE BLUESCASTERS
7:00PM

ARIZONA SON (Host Band) 11AM WSG
CHET WILLIAMS, PAUL WILEY SMITH,
LYNNAE WINNIE, HARVEY MILLER,
WACO BAND 4:00PM

COMMON GROUND (Host Band) 11AM
MATT KING 'TRIBUTE TO ELVIS' 2:00PM



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