



FROM OUT OF NOWHERE

by Frieda Barter

GENE WILL perhaps never get over the speed with which he became known professionally, because the shy and modest youngster was an unknown only a few short months ago. He came up from nowhere on WCMS, Norfolk, Virginia's *Country Showtime*, and then crashed onto Capitol's label and into the affections of thousands of fans with his first Cap recording.

Although he's a man of few words, and gives the appearance of being more timid than not, he possesses emotions to which he gives musical expressions that are altogether contrary to his quiet and unassuming appearance. When Cap's a&r men first heard the lad's unique style, so full of fire and zest, they decided to exploit him with a lively, rocking tune as his initial waxing.

The carefree, colorful warbling of Vincent on the *Woman Love* and *Be-Bob-A-Lula* diskings piled up sensational sales from the moment the record was released. Within three weeks it passed the 200,000 mark, and sales are still climbing steadily.

Gene uses an unusually fervent style in all of his musical efforts. It's an enthusiasm and a warmth he feels for words and melodies and he's got to do it that way, or burst. And, he explains, it is not something he developed to start a fad, it's something that existed deep, down inside of him when he was just a kid, singing choir songs with his family, and then became almost a passion when one day he heard the rhythmic patter of negro folk songs in a Virginia backwoods store. He was twelve at the time, but immature though he was, the style

was so contagious to the boy, that applications of it haunted him for the next several years.

Finally, do or die, he had to do something about it, so he borrowed a friend's guitar, banged away on it day and night, and finally worked out the style that today may well make him a famous man.

Just where Gene got his enthusiasm, emotions and desire for music, he can't say. All he knows is that ever since he was a little kid he had experienced an urge to give expression to an inward drive, in one way or another, and when his opportunity finally came, he performed with such a natural grace, that even without previous professional experience he managed to jump right into the big time and, to click. All his previous playing had been confined to the

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JANIS MARTIN

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And all this is still only the beginning, because if Janis's style and her recorded works continue in their present stride, she's bound to be a mighty popular and busy teenager, plus, for a long time to come. Yet, when you discuss it with the popular young songstress, she quietly, and choked with emotion, declares that she never dreamed it could happen to her. She hides her desire to shout her thrilled reaction and her thanks to the thousands of people who have made all this possible, under a natural and most becoming cloak of refinement, and blushing admits that when it comes to boys, she never knew they could be such devoted people. Janis says her fan mail, the majority of which comes from teen-age boys is reaching unbelievable totals, but she loves getting the letters, in fact, looks forward to reading them all, and she's especially thrilled with the constructive and complimentary manner in which the young men discuss her career.

GENE VINCENT

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forward deck of a tanker while he served with the United States Navy, and before that to his bedroom at home. He says most of his friends thought he was crazy because of the style he used, but those who saw some merit to the unique pattern he had, urged him to audition for some scouts who were seeking talent, and that is how Gene came to the attention of radio station WCMS in Norfolk, Virginia, landed a spot on *Country Showtime*, and subsequently came to the attention of Capitol Records.

Dark, curly-haired Gene, though he is not the type to influence people with wordy discussions, nevertheless has a very engaging personality, and the very thing that makes him so likeable is his retiring, but charming attitude. The twenty-year-old lad has three sisters, and lives with his family in the town where he was born, Norfolk, Virginia.

The rhythm boy, of course, speaks of music as his chief interest, but those who know him well confide that he has more than a passing fancy for young ladies. He once did have a hobby from which it was hard to separate him, he loved motorcycling, and one could see him scooting about on the machine whenever he had a moment to spare. However, an accident which produced a broken leg for him, divorced him from that hobby, and it looks as though from now on Gene won't miss it anyway because he'll be too busy with his career and perhaps, the opposite sex.



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