



Kitty Wells

for a year and then to "Grand Ole Opry" for six years. In 1950 he went to Washington, D. C., and he is still there, doing live shows and some disc jockey chores. Zeb wrote one of Eddy Arnold's biggest hits, "It's a Sin."

**WESLEY TUTTLE**

Records: Capitol

Although he had toyed with music during his school years, Wes' professional career didn't start until he was 15, when he joined the Lucky Stars' western group on Hollywood radio station KMTR. He also sang with the original Sons of the Pioneers until 1939, when he moved to Cincinnati to star on several of WLW's C&W shows. In 1941, he returned to Hollywood, where he did guest spots on many radio shows and performed in motion pictures. He tours regularly with his instrumental group known as the "Texas Stars."

**THE TV WRANGLERS**

Records: Mercury

The TV Wranglers are made up of the Smith Brothers and Boots Woodall. The Smith Brothers, Tennessee and Smitty, were born in Oneida, Tenn. Their uphill struggle has carried them through every facet of show business except the legitimate stage. From 1945 to 1948, they were under contract to Columbia pictures during which time they appeared in 17 western pictures. Their favorite songs are hymns and ballads. Woodall was born in Paulding county, Ga. He entered show business when young and for years has been an outstanding performer in the country music field. When television started growing in the south, Boots was among the first to realize its tremendous possibilities and quickly moved from radio to television. Boots has become widely known for his winning personality and warm smile.

The TV Wranglers' television show appears over WAGA-TV in Atlanta, Ga.

**JACK VALENTINE**

Records: MGM

Ballad singer Jack Valentine, made his radio debut at the age of 17. He was born in Washington, but reared in Boston, and there made several television appearances when TV was still in the experimental stages. From Boston, Jack went to Cincinnati where he again worked on radio and in nightclubs.



Slim Whitman

He then entered the U. S. Army and served with the infantry and medical corps in Europe. Upon his return to the States, Jack took up again where he'd left off, and advanced to his own daily radio program on station WSAI, Cincinnati.

Jack's first MGM recording "Song Of The Bandit" and "Dressing Up My Heart" really points up the lad's fine talent. Jack and his wife, the former Cindy Angel of Kentucky, now live in Gloucester, N. J.

**GENE VINCENT**

Records: Capitol  
Mgr.: Bill Davis

The unusually fervent style which Gene uses, as explained by him, stems from the rhythmic patter of Negro folk songs which he listened to as a kid, in a Virginia backwoods store, and which haunted him for many years until he released his emotions in his first hit on the Capitol label, "Be-Boh-A-Lula" b/w "Woman Love." The former piled up sensational sales for Vincent the moment it was released and is still appearing on top-tune country charts as being very much in demand. Gene was virtually unknown until the waxing of his first hit, having come to the attention of Cap's a&R men while doing a bit on "Country Show-time," Norfolk, Virginia. Gene is backed in all his efforts by a very youthful and unique group called the Blue Caps. Vincent lives with his family in the town where he was born, Norfolk, Va., and is currently engaged in picture work in Hollywood, as well as adding more and more recordings to his initial hit.

**PORTER WAGONER**

Records: RCA Victor  
Mgr.: Top Talent, Inc.

Porter Wagoner, star of the "Ozark Jubilee," is RCA Victor's only Missouri-born Country-Western singer. Most influential in Porter's career were the tent shows and other musical affairs in the Ozark country which he and his family traveled to see. In 1945 he won an amateur contest with a song called "Leaf of Love," and soon afterward organized a band that won first place in another contest. By 1950 Porter had built a sizable reputation for himself, and in 1955 he joined KWTO full time, and shortly thereafter began recording on the Victor label. The youth's career is a model of hard work with personal appearance schedules and one-niters keeping him constantly on the move. His singing is in great demand at



Wilburn Brothers

road shows, sports events, and even political campaigns. Among all of Porter's recordings, "A Satisfied Mind" has easily been the outstanding hit of his career.

**JIMMY WAKELY**

Records: Coral

Wakely was born in Mineola, Ark., Feb. 16, 1914, and started strumming guitar at 7. After high school graduation he worked on ranches in Oklahoma and in 1937, with Johnny Bond and Scotty Harrel, started singing over WKY, Oklahoma City. Next came two years on the Gene Autry "Melody Ranch" program, followed by motion picture work. Jimmy then formed a band and in 1943 organized another trio, the Saddle Pals, for a series of Columbia pictures. Wakely has appeared in some 39 films as singer, bandleader and bit player.

**BILLY WALKER**

Records: Columbia

Walker, born on Jan. 14, 1927, hails from Texas, and his present home is in Waco. When Billy was 6, his mother died, and his father, unable to work and take care of five small children at the same time, sent Billy and his two older brothers to the Methodist orphanage at Waco. Some years later his father brought the family together at Clovis, N. M., where Billy showed his first interest in music. He acquired a guitar and taught himself to play it by listening to others. At the age of 15 he won an amateur contest and a prize of \$3 which eventually led to his first radio show on Station KICA in Clovis. After graduation from high school in 1945, he joined a traveling band for two years. In 1949 he was signed as the feature singer of "Big D Jamboree" in Dallas. Then he moved back to Waco, where he starred on "Ranch Time" over WACO.

**CHARLIE WALKER**

Records: Decca

Charlie Walker was born on a farm in Collins County, Texas. He first broke into radio singing with Bill Boyd and his Cowboy Ramblers on WRR. When he left Boyd he got a program of his own over the Corpus Christi station KWBU. On the Long Radio Enterprises in Bay City, Texas, he doubled as vocalist and jockey and also toured the chain of theaters owned by the company. From there he went to station KMAC in San Antonio. In addition to his singing talents,



Hank Williams



Bob Wills



Moe Wiseman