

Reece Shipley Promoting Boogie Record

Reece Shipley, Kingsport hill-billy radio entertainer, is promoting his second boogie record, which was introduced last week in radio stations from Knoxville to Chicago.

"Catfish Boogie" is being released by Valley Records of Knoxville, and the first 1,000 discs will be used for radio promotion. Records will be offered to the public later for 45 and 78 r.p.m. players.

Since Shipley introduced "Milk Bucket Boogie", which made its way to New York by Red Foley's recording, the former WKPT maestro of the Rainbow Valley Boys has been under the bright lights of Baltimore, Md., as a western entertainer at Harry's Corral, where he worked out a 33-week stand and on WMAR-TV and WBMD, both at Baltimore.

But there were too many bars; too many wild people in the East for this country boy from East Tennessee. Reece came home to record his "Catfish Boogie" and fish off the Enka Corporation dam at Morristown and along the Chuckey River. "There are more catfish in Chuckey River than any other place around here. They can come up to the dam from Douglas, and you can look down and snag 'em on an empty line," he said.

He is now on the WKIN program from 5 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. daily. His present Rainbow Boys consist of Carl Jones, Ray Hutchins, Blind Boy Casidy.

The nation's No. 1 steel guitar player, according to Reece, is Jerry Byrd, who helped out in the latest boogie recording. Jerry wrote to Reece: "From one fisherman to another, I hope you sell 5,000 records of Catfish Boogie to each catfish you catch!"

Chet Atkins, electric straight-guitar artist from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, has also wished the local entertainer "lots of luck", as have the other members who have contributed to the making of the record: Harry C. Floyd, John Gordy, Walter Lenk, Harold Bradley and Mort Thomsson, engineer, all of Nashville.

Reece Shipley 1953-06-21

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