

## ***Notable Tidbits***

Before leaving that wonderful country music era I was a part of, I want to make a few sidebar comments.

>> In the music field fans are always interested in main influences. In my case, I really did not have musical influences per se, I had my own style. However, I did have special fellow artists that helped me along so I want to give credit where credit is due. In no particular order: ***Little Jimmy Dickens*** ... he, along with Cowboy, 'discovered' Shirley and I. That first meeting with my dad set the wheels in motion for my career. In addition, Jimmy was a true friend throughout my time in Nashville <> The great ***Hank Williams*** ... what can I say, he took us under his wing by inviting us to participate with him on the Hadacol Caravan. We toured with him a few times thereafter and we were even there that final devastating night [Note: The show went on that fateful night soon after we received the news. Those of us scheduled to appear collectively decided to make it an impromptu tribute led by Hawkshaw Hawkins. I sang *A Mansion On The Hill* with Shirley on harmony] <> ***Jim Reeves*** ... a good personal friend and a delightful touring partner during my solo career. The two of us had a discussion when I was dining one evening with Jim and his wife Mary that greatly altered the history of one song. He had been given a song to record but felt it was too girlie so he wanted to give it to me. After listening to it I insisted Jim record it and the rest is history, literally ... the song was ***Four Walls!*** Want to hear me sing it ... ummm, recently, nearly 60 years later? Here goes **[Four Walls]** [this is just while playfully jamming with an old friend of ours ... he on bass and me on guitar]. Later in this write-up you'll hear me perform it again as a duet ... but just messing around <> ***Kitty Wells*** ... what a wonderful lady. Kitty was the first female country artist to welcome me to Nashville. That was a time when females were still trying to get a foothold in country music. Miss Kitty treated me like gold <> ***Jean Shepard*** ... Jean was right there for me every step of the way until I got comfortable. After that, she was a very dear friend. I should note that in 1958 Jean recorded a song I wrote and it did pretty well for her; the song is ***Secret of Life*** <> Last but certainly not least, ***Patsy Cline***. Patsy and I were very close friends. We did the stuff that other young girls did such as shopping, catching a movie and so on. Heck, sometimes on tour we would go buy clothes to wear that night on stage. Speaking of touring, we even had fun touring together ... at times we would sing each other's songs much to the delight of the crowd. Patsy's death hit me hard ... to this day I have never sung a Patsy Cline song since after she left us.

>> Way back in the 1950s when I was getting considerable TV exposure, I was approached by Hollywood to star in a feature film. Already having a difficult time balancing my desire for privacy and my singing career I knew movie stardom was not for me. I graciously declined and never gave it another thought.

>> in 1958 I was blessed to be named as ***Billboard's Most Promising Female Country & Western Artist***. The song credited with making it happen was ***I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry*** [\[link it\]](#)