

The Missing Years

Throughout my life I have kept my private life private and I will continue to do so. I can tell you this, I explored many other avenues; such, as other occupations, artwork and painting plus raised a family. Back on point, you're here about country music so let's get back into it.

Though all told I was gone from country music for approximately 48 years, all is not completely lost during the time away. Folks ... let's revisit one significant happening that occurred unexpectedly during my lengthy absence. Note: for me it is important enough to do even though you are likely familiar with the story. I left the business in 1962 and never looked back though admittedly I wasn't really comfortable with what I did. At some point I moved to Hawaii where I led a quiet private life. How quiet and private? None of my friends knew I was ever a country singer much less on the Grand Ole Opry and such; I was just June and I liked it that way. One day in August of 1992 a telephone call interrupted my living in paradise ... I was told Roy Acuff wanted me to appear on the Opry with him one more time. Somewhat taken aback by the out of the blue call I paused not sure what to make of it ... but then the caller told me that Roy Acuff was nearing his life's end so he really wanted to perform with me one more time.

I was stunned, and mind you I had not sung a country song in 30 years, but quickly gathered my thoughts and replied, "I'll be there; when, where exactly and how do I get there". The caller was armed with all the answers so it was set. On August 15, 1992 I walked out onto the Grand Ole Opry stage for the first time in three decades; and oh, by the way ... it was not the Ryman Auditorium but the new facility; I missed the historic Ryman. Roy and I chatted on stage for a bit and then I did two songs; ***I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry*** and ***Making Believe***. [play the songs]. Unfortunately, my home VCR malfunctioned so I do not have a recording of that historic show. All is not lost, however ... some years back John searched and searched to find the show. Finally, through a Grand Ole Opry historian friend of ours, Byron Faye, he was able to come up with a badly damaged and at times unintelligible [be warned] yet useable cassette recording off of an old tiny pocket transistor radio; you remember those. So, everyone, for the first time we are going to play the entire 11+ minute Grand Ole Opry segment [John here ... I made a couple of minor adjustments].

There are a couple of notes: 1. The dates are off; for example, Miss June was away for 30 years at that time. 2. Mr. Acuff talks about Miss June beginning to appear in the U.S. ... we all know that did not happen. With Mr. Acuff nearing the end, June was being thoughtful there. 3. As we all know, June wasn't performing on a regular basis during the missing years as this broadcast appears to indicate ... that's showbiz, folks...

I am so thankful for that out-of-the-blue telephone call ... why? Sadly, Roy passed away just three months later ... it was a true blessing, we had one final Grand Ole Opry moment...

After that I went back into being private person June for another 18 years.