

Roy Acuff Show Era

It's important to me to start the Roy Acuff Show period by introducing the fine folks I worked with there ... we were like a family. Of course, **Roy Acuff** ... he was like a father figure to us ... he treated us all like we were his kids. He always made sure everyone was safe, especially me as a young lady. As you know, Roy played the fiddle and sang <> **Howdy Forrester**, a very nice person, was, in my opinion, one of the greatest fiddlers in country music. I feel he has been underrated. An innovative musician, Howdy, created the wonderful intro for one of my hit songs. I'd like to share with you the first time I sang it on a TV show ... please take note of Howdy's great work on ***I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry***. **[attach song]** <> Jimmy Riddle was known as a cutup, and he was indeed funny as can be, however, he was more so a very talented musician. Not only was he a longtime member of Roy Acuff's band, he was a regular on Hee Haw for years. As mentioned, perhaps overlooked, Jimmy was a very talented musician ... he played harmonica, piano, and accordion. It may surprise you to know he was a formally-trained classical musician. Here's **a short video glimpse** of Jimmy with a group called Goofus, yep ...Goofus <> **Bashful Brother Oswald**, what can I say that hasn't already been said. He was a great guy and lots of fun. Oz played the resonator guitar, the dobro, and most famously, the banjo. As an aside, I was good friends with Oz's daughter Linda, she and I went to the movies, skating, the pool ... you know, girlie stuff <> The **Wilburn Brothers** were like brothers to me ... when we traveled worldwide with the Roy Acuff show, we saw movies, shopped, and bowled on our days off ... oh, and at times **we sang together** on the show. The Roy Acuff Show was also called The Roy Acuff Traveling Show. Aside from appearing frequently on the Grand Ole Opry, we traveled stateside and abroad extensively. Most of our U.S. travel was at night after shows ... unlike today's fancy busses, we used two or three caddy limos. For example, if acts like Jim Reeves or Floyd Cramer were traveling with us, we [Roy, Oz, Howdy and I plus others] would use Roy's limo and the other acts would use another one or two limos. We did all of the main venues such as the Louisiana Hayride, the Big D Jamboree, the Wheeling Jamboree, Sunset Park and some not so mainstream. Abroad we visited many armed forces bases where we did USO-type shows. Some of the countries we played at overseas were: Germany, France, Italy, Australia, Spain and The Caribbean. On our days off overseas we would sightsee and eat at recommended restaurants. A handful of beautiful cities we visited are: Florence, Venice, Paris and Rota. Looking back, I would guess that my two most requested songs were **Looking Glass** and **A Mansion On The Hill** **[Links to both]** ... truth is, *Looking Glass* is still the song that gets the most attention.

The Roy Acuff Show was a joy but I was being pushed to return to being a solo act ... I was told I was in demand. Next, came a sequence of events that turned my life upside down and left many country music fans baffled. One Saturday night after a rousing applause from the wonderful Ryman Auditorium audience I walked off the hallowed stage and abruptly disappeared into the dark night never to be heard from again. My lips are sealed as to just why.....