

Free

*Kentucky's US 23
Country Music Highway
Travel Guide*

2007-2008

Map Inside

www.countrymusichighway.com



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Judy Cornett - VP Market Manager
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Bobby Leach - Music Services Director
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The Jamboree is a Grand 'Ole Opry style event that is produced by **Judy Cornett and Ritchie Collins** and is generally staged on the **first Saturday of each month**. Each show features some of the region's top local talent, cloggers, jingle singers, some good laughs, and a **Nashville Headliner**.

Among those stars who have performed are **Aaron Tippin, Andy Griggs, Blue County, Dan Seals, David Ball, Jessica Andrews, Joe Diffie, Josh Gracin, Little Big Town, and Marty Stewart**.

**Join the Morning Wake Up Call
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Weekday Mornings 5am - 10am

Ride with the James Gang

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**Vote for your favorite new
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Scott Hesson 2pm - 7pm

**Call Eddie Riffe with your
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7pm - Midnight

American Country Countdown

Sunday Noon - 4pm



Judy Eaton & Clint McElroy

www.WTCRAMericana.com

J.D. Crowe



The banjo on the cover of this year's magazine is a Gibson owned by **JD Crowe**. JD was born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky, and was one of the most influential bluegrass musicians. He started playing the banjo at 13 years old, having been inspired by Earl Scruggs. He first saw Flat and Scruggs perform at The Kentucky Barn Dance, and after that he regularly attended most of their performances, sitting in the first row to study Scruggs' unique style of picking.

Crowe worked his way up, moving through several bands in the sixties. It wasn't until the 1970's that he received national recognition with his band, "The New South." After the band's debut in 1972, Crowe became a bluegrass legend, and his performances are still sought after today.

US 23 Country Music Highway Travel Guide 2007/2008

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US 23

Country Music Highway

On March 1, 1994, an historic bill sponsored by State Representative Hubert Collins' was passed and little-known US Route 23 Highway in eastern Kentucky became "**The Country Music Highway.**" This was done to recognize all the well-known country music stars that came from this region. Only eight years later and with the vision and perseverance of Congressman Hal Rogers, the Country Music Highway was recognized as a **National Scenic Byway** on June, 2002. This 144 mile stretch of highway runs North and South along the eastern part of the state of Kentucky and covers seven counties.

The musical talent that has developed from these Appalachian hills includes *Loretta Lynn, Wynonna & Naomi Judd, Billy Ray Cyrus, Tom T. Hall, Ricky Skaggs, Keith Whitley, Dwight Yoakam, Gary Stewart, Patty Loveless, Crystal Gayle* and more. Visitors to this area will quickly realize that this entire region is steeped in cultural and musical history.

There are many opportunities to hear the sounds of all types of music at venues along the Country Music Highway. Beginning with the northern part of the highway in Greenup County, you have a brand new amphitheater at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park. Then going south you come to Boyd County, home of the historic **Paramount Arts Center** in Ashland, Kentucky. This venue launched the careers of Billy Ray Cyrus and The Judds. Billy Ray's famous "Achy Breaky Heart" video was filmed there. In Johnson County you have two venues, the **Mountain Homeplace Amphitheater**, the brand new **Country Music Highway Museum**, and **Memories**. Moving further south to Floyd County, in the city of Prestonsburg, you will find the **Mountain Arts Center**, home of the popular professional entertainment ensemble, **The Kentucky Opry**. In Letcher County, the multi-purpose facility, **Appalshop**, with a quaint theater that features many Appalachian and Bluegrass concerts. We now have **The Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center**, locat-

ed in Pike County, designed as a multi-purpose facility that is available for concerts, conventions and special events. In addition to the above venues there are countless shows and festivals that feature the sounds and talents of the region.

The Country Music Highway is not only about country music. When you travel the Country Music Highway you can also learn about Native Americans, pioneers, the Civil War, and the coal mining industry. The story of Eastern Kentucky has been influenced by those who, early on in the nation's history, began searching for land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Not long thereafter, as a result of being a border state between the North and South, sections of the area became battlegrounds for the Civil War.

As the area began to develop and grow, coal mining became an essential chapter in Kentucky, and still is. This area is well known for a very notable feud - **The Hatfield-McCoy Feud**, which became a nationally known event. The two families have recently formed a working relationship and have collectively developed the **Hatfield-McCoy Reunion** on the second weekend of June in Pike County.

While on the trail of feuders, pioneers, or miners, the area along Country Music Highway is full of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. The region is blessed with six beautiful State Parks from **Greenbo State Resort Park** in Greenup County to **Kingdom Come State Park** in Letcher County. **Jenny Wiley State Resort Park** in Floyd County also features Broadway type musicals at **Jenny Wiley Theatre**.

Welcome to one of the most beautiful and historic places in the nation. As you travel along the Country Music Highway, and meet the friendly folks of this Appalachian region, you will quickly realize that you have found a hidden treasure. We know that you will enjoy the music and crafts that abound here. The key to a successful visit in this region is to make sure you have enough time to see and hear it all!

The Future Stars of Country Music

Find them along Kentucky's US 23 Highway

Eastern Kentucky's US 23 highway has been designated by the National Byways Program as the "Country Music Highway" due to the unusually high number of Country Music Stars that have been born and raised along this 144 mile stretch of road. Names like Loretta Lynn, Billy Ray Cyrus, Patty Loveless, Ricky Skaggs, Dwight Yoakam, The Judds, Crystal Gayle and others are very recognizable to any country music fan.

However, many people that visit the area are interested in seeing some of the country and bluegrass stars of the future. Well, we are here to tell you that Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway is not only a place where some of the biggest names in country music are from but where the future stars are being developed!! We have some of the best venues and events that prove this point. We have created a page in this year's publication that identifies many of the

venues that feature live music in the region. (See page 44).

One of the most exciting concerts ever produced in this region, The US 23 Highway Highlights, features some of the most talented performers from all along the Country Music Highway. This spectacular event is being funded by America's Byway Program and TOUR Southern & Eastern Kentucky. This event is produced by Ken Carriere, President of Goodtyme Productions. The US 23 Highway Highlights is the official Red Bud Festival Event for The Country Music Highway and is scheduled to take place each year in April (the Saturday before Hillbilly Days) at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg. There is no doubt that once people see this amazing concert, they will realize that the Country Music Highway is just as much about the future as it is about the past.



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"More Than Music" US 23 Driving Tour

"Hi, I'm Ricky Skaggs and I'd like to invite you on a journey with me down Route 23 in Eastern Kentucky, my home territory." Those are the opening words of MORE THAN MUSIC, an audio driving tour that guides visitors along the Country Music Highway and off on side trips to little communities like Sandy Hook, David and Butcher Holler.

Ricky's voice is not the only one you'll hear on the four-CD set. Loretta Lynn, Crystal Gayle, Patti Loveless, and other famous and up-and-coming stars share their memories of the region they all call home. Intertwined with the memories of the stars are conversations with artists and craftsmen, coal miners and farmers, people who grew up during the Great Depression and children who are proud to share their heritage and their vision of the future with visitors. As you wind down the Country Music Highway, Ricky will point out the points of interest and local people will fill in the details. The tour includes all the major stopping points from the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland to the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Benham, but it has more. It invites you to family reunions and

tells you who has asked tourists to stop by for a glass or lemonade and a local history lesson on their front porch. It is a chance to get to know the region from the inside out, the way that Loretta and Ricky know it.

Along with the CDs, you'll get a booklet with maps, history and photos. It also has phone numbers and websites to help you find your way around and learn even more about this fascinating area. And as a special bonus, there is a fourth CD with the music that has made this region famous, from Hylo Brown to Dwight Yoakum.

The tour can be purchased at the Ashland Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Pavilion in Louisa, the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg, David Appalachian Crafts in David, the Country Music Highway Museum in Paintsville, Pike County Tourism or the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea. You may also order copies by phone from the Kentucky History Center's 1792 Store (1-877-444-7867) or online at www.history.ky.gov.

More Than Music
A Heritage Driving Tour of Kentucky's Route 23

Tour the "Country Music Highway" in Eastern Kentucky with the new 4-CD set plus guidebook narrated by Ricky Skaggs including history, maps, and travel tips. Music sampler includes songs by Ricky Skaggs and Keith Whitley, Dwight Yoakam, The Judds, Loretta Lynn, and more.

Order your copy online from the Kentucky Historical Society's 1792 Store at www.history.ky.gov.

 **KentuckyHistoricalSociety** THE KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

WELCOME TO GREENUP COUNTY

Home of Billy Ray Cyrus



William Ray (Billy Ray) Cyrus was born August 25, 1961, in Flatwoods Kentucky. Before he was even old enough to go to school, Billy Ray began singing with his father's gospel quartet and his mother's bluegrass band. As a young man, he formed a country duo with his brother. When he was 19 he began playing guitar and performing locally with *Sly Dog*, a band named after his one-eyed pet bulldog. The band started performing in an Ironton, Ohio bar called *Changes*. In 1984, the bar burned to the ground, along with the band's equipment. With not much left in Kentucky, he packed up and headed west. After spending two years in Los Angeles, he ended up with a dead-end job selling cars instead of stardom. His heart turned back to Kentucky, and he returned home to reform *Sly Dog*. The newly formed *Sly Dog* landed a gig at *The Ragtime Lounge* in Huntington, WV. At this point, Billy Ray started making regular trips to Nashville to "knock on doors".

While opening for Reba McEntire in Louisville, KY in 1990, Billy Ray was discovered by Mercury talent scouts. Of course by then he was a seasoned pro. Two years later he blasted the music world with *Achy Breaky Heart* and his hit album, *Some Gave All*. His follow-up album was the million selling *It Won't Be the Last*. But by the time he released 1994's *Storm in the Heartland*, Cyrus' was no longer a favorite among radio stations. He was forced to change his style a bit and came up with the earthy sounds of *Trail of Tears*. The

1996 album earned a single of the year award from the TNN/Music City News Country Awards voters. He assembled a greatest hits collection called *Cover to Cover*, which included *It's All the Same to Me*. This performance returned him to radio in 1997 and paved the way for his next album, *Shot Full of Love*. His next album, *Southern Rain*, was released in 2000.

Billy Ray has a deep and profound connection to his fans. Few artists have given as much of themselves. His devotion to the community is outstanding, and the amount of charity work he does has been staggering. Because his early hits were so catchy, he became an instant favorite with children. As a result, Cyrus has been seen holding many dying and crippled children in his arms. Cyrus' first four albums for Mercury Nashville put his sales in excess of 13 million units. He has earned multitudes of awards from the Country Music Association, the American Music Awards, Billboard, the Recording Industry Association of America (R I A A) ,

TNN/Music City News Awards and numerous other organizations. In early 2001, Cyrus took his starring role in the dramatic series, *Doc*, on cable network PAX-TV. More recently, Cyrus has teamed up with daughter Miley for the Disney Channel's highly popular series "*Hannah Montana*".



Miley Cyrus as
"Hannah Montana"

Greenbo Lake State Resort Park



Greenbo Lake State Resort Park holds the pristine beauty of the Kentucky hills that inspired poet Jesse Stuart, a lifelong resident of the area. You will appreciate his visions as you visit the beautiful fieldstone lodge or relax in front of the copper-hooded fireplace in the lodge lobby.

Enjoy the view at the Jesse Stuart Lodge. Most of the 36 rooms feature private patios and balconies overlooking beautiful Greenbo Lake.

A swimming pool adjacent to the lodge is for the exclusive use of lodge guests. A newly-built community pool features a water slide and a childrens area with a rain tree.

Enjoy the great outdoors at the Greenbo Lake Campground. The campground features 63 sites with utility hookups, as well as 35 primitive sites. We now take reservations, by going to our web site, www.parks.ky.gov.



The Jesse Stuart Lodge now features “Anglers’ Cove Restaurant” with a seafood flare, a 232-seat dining room where you can experience the finest in courteous service and Kentucky cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The park also offers full service convention/on-site catering for up to 400 people.

Experience boating and fishing on Greenbo Lake. This 225-acre lake is home of two state large-mouth bass records! The lake also holds bluegill, crappie, catfish, and trout. The park also provides a full service marina on a first-come first-serve basis.

Daily summer activities and year-round events are scheduled for both children and adults. These events are planned under the guidance of a trained recreation director.

Be sure to ask about our Tee’s & Zzz’s golf package and other business retreat packages available through our group sales office. Don’t forget about the Model Railroad Show held each March, as well as the Annual Antique Show held each November.

The park now features a newly constructed Amphitheater that will host numerous musical and special events.



While visiting Greenbo Lake State Resort, also check out these other recreational facilities:

- ♦Miniature Golf ♦Tennis & Basketball Courts
- ♦Bicycle Rentals ♦Picnic Shelters & Playgrounds
- ♦Jesse Stuart Library & Reading Room
- ♦25 + miles of Horseback, Hiking, & Mountain Bike Trails open to the public.



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<http://parks.ky.gov/greenbo2.htm>

GREENUP COUNTY



Jesse Stuart, Kentucky Novelist

Jesse Stuart, KY novelist, short-story writer, poet, and teacher, was the son of a man who could barely write his name. Stuart was born August 8, 1906 in a

Hatton's favorite student and he thought of her as his "literary mother".

After graduating from Greenup High School, Stuart worked in a steel mill in Ashland until September. In the fall of 1926 he was admitted to Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee. He received more encouragement to write from Harry Harrison Droll, one of his English professors. He spent 1931-32 as a graduate student at Vanderbilt University.

In his poem, "Kentucky is My Land," Jesse Stuart expresses his love for his homeland.

small cabin in Greenup County, Kentucky a few miles from the Ohio River. He was the son of Mitchell and Martha Hilton Stuart, and was the second of seven children.

Jesse Stuart's father was a coal miner and tenant farmer. Even though uneducated himself, Mitchell Stuart' philosophy was "Since I didn't get any education, I don't want my youngins to grow up in this world without it. They'll never know what they're missin' until they don't have it".

Jesse Stuart began school at Plum Grove in 1912. There he wrote his first short story - about the Easter Bunny - when only eight years old. Stuart was extremely bright, reaching the seventh grade by the time he was ten years old.

Stuart's first major influence was his English teacher at Greenup County High School, Mrs. R. E. Hatton. She encouraged him to write short stories and poems. Stuart was Mrs.

**"(...) And when I go beyond the border,
I take with me growth and beauty of the seasons,
The music of wind in pine and cedar tops,
The wordless songs of snow-melted water
When it pours over the rocks to wake the spring.
I take with me Kentucky embedded in my
brain and heart,
In my flesh and bone and blood
Since I am of Kentucky
And Kentucky is part of me"
-Jesse Stuart**

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WELCOME TO Boyd County

Home of Wynonna, Naomi, & Ashley Judd



Both **Wynonna and Naomi Judd** were born in Ashland, Kentucky. Naomi became pregnant, married her high school sweetheart and gave birth to Wynonna all before her high school graduation. In 1968, the family left the deeply-rooted life they'd known in Kentucky and moved to California, where Naomi gave birth to a second daughter, Ashley. Wynonna was seven, and Ashley only three, when Naomi divorced. They moved from place to place but by 1976 were settled back in Kentucky, living in a small house on a mountaintop with no telephone or television. Naomi recalls, "I wanted my daughters to be close to our family and our heritage. I wanted them to learn where they came from and to be free to develop their imaginations and talents."

Wynonna learned to play the guitar and sing. Naomi gave her the guitar to give her something to do. They started singing together for their own entertainment, never thinking of fame or awards. Times were tough, and money and tempers were short, but Wynonna and Naomi found harmony in their music.

In 1979, the girls moved to Nashville to pursue their newfound dream. They began shopping for a producer who could develop the unique sound they had in their hearts and minds. They were determined to maintain the integrity of their music.

They found producer Brent Maher in the hospital where Naomi was a nurse. She had been treating Maher's daughter after a car accident.

On March 2, 1983, Wynonna and Naomi were granted an appointment at RCA Records. Their meeting was to be a live audition for the label's executives. Within

forty-five minutes, The Judds were RCA recording artists.

Throughout the 1980s, it looked as if there was no end to success for this dynamic duo. But in October of 1990, Naomi learned she had contracted Hepatitis C. The debilitating illness left her no choice; after a lifetime of dreams and eight years at the top, Naomi would have to retire.

The Judd's Farewell Tour began in February of 1991 and stopped in 116 cities across North America. The tour grossed over \$21,000,000.00 and The Judds were named the top grossing concert act of 1991. The tour broke records but it also broke hearts, as the girls said a tearful goodbye to the loyal fans who had loved and supported them for nearly a decade. On December 4, 1991, The Judds performed their final concert. The sell-out crowd and over six million pay-per-view fans watched as Wynonna and Naomi took their final bows. It was the end of an era.

Wynonna, now a mother of two, continues to record and tour. As a solo artist she has sold more than nine million records and has celebrated fourteen top ten hits, including five #1's. The Los Angeles Times proclaimed, "Wynonna may just be the most complete and gifted female singer of her generation, and we're not just talking country music."

Naomi, now in remission, serves as a spokesperson for the American Liver Foundation. She's a best-selling author, radio talk show host, judge on 2003's hit TV reality show, *Star Search*, and a highly sought after motivational speaker, traveling the country sharing her message of healing.



Ashley Judd pursued an acting career and has starred in numerous major films. Ashley was recently named one of "the 50 most Beautiful People in the World" by People Magazine. Ashley has quickly become both a darling of the critics and of audiences after roles in films like *Smoke and Heat*. She also won an Independent Spirit Award for her role in 1993's *Ruby in Paradise*.

Boyd County



Area Attractions

- Ashland Main Street**
1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-325-7692
- Historic Downtown Russell Antique District**
Belafonta Square, Russell
- Greenbo Lake State Park**
965 Lodge Road - Greenup, KY
606-473-7324
- Paramount Arts Center**
1300 Winchester Avenue, 606-324-3175
- Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge**
KY 7 - Greenup, 606-834-0007
- Historic McConnell House**
100 McConnell House Drive - Wurtland
606-834-0007



- Jesse Stuart Nature Preserve**
Rt. 2, Greenup, 606-834-0007
- Greenup County War Memorial**
U.S. 25 - Wurtland, 606-834-0007
- Oldtown Covered Bridge**
County Road 705 - Greenup
606-834-0007



- Pendleton Art Center**
1517 Winchester Ave., 606-920-9663
- Fannin Antique Car Museum**
U.S. 60 W., 606-929-9000
- Highlands Museum & Discovery Center**
1620 Winchester Avenue, 606-329-8888
- Jesse Stuart Foundation**
1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-326-1617
- City of Catlettsburg**
26th & Broadway Street, 606-739-5223



- B F Crager City Park**
Raywoods, 606-834-0007
- 2007 Festivals & Events**
- Scrapbooking Weekend**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, January 19-21
- Black History Weekend**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, February 9-10
- Tri-State Annual Model Railroad Show**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, March 16-18
- Chili Fest - "Great Bowls of Fire"**
Paramount Arts Center, May 12
- America's Bluegrass - "Springtime in KY"-TBA**
Amphitheater, Greenbo Lake State Resort Park

2007 Festivals & Events (continued)

- Annual Brass Band Festival**
Ashland Central Park, June 2
- HRP Junior Bluegrass Golf Tournament**
Belmonte Country Club, June 17-21
- Summer Motion**
Ashland Central Park/Riverfront, June 30-July 4
- Greenbo Lake 4th of July Celebration (Fireworks)**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, July 4
- Boyd County Fair**
Boyd County Fairgrounds - August 14-18
- Greenup County Fair**
Greenup County Fairgrounds - August 14-18
- US 23 Road Rally**
Greenup Co. to Leecher Co., August 25
- Catlettsburg's Labor Day Celebration**
Downtown Catlettsburg, Labor Day Weekend
- Page Landing Days**
Downtown Ashland, September 14-16
- Kentucky Senior Games**
September 12-16
- Jesse Stuart Weekend**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, September 21-23
- Heritage Stakes Invitational Croquet Tournament**
McConnell House in Wurtland, September 22
- Greenup Old Fashion Days**
Downtown Greenup, October 4-7
- Camper Halloween Weekend**
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, October 19-20/26-27



- Winter Wonderland of Lights**
Ashland Central Park, November 13-January 2
- Festival of Trees**
Paramount Arts Center, November 17-25
- Ashland's Annual Christmas Parade**
Downtown Ashland, November 20
- Holidays at the Highlands**
November 13-December 31
- Russell's Christmas Illumination**
Downtown Russell, December 15
- Ashland's New Year's Eve Celebration**
Highlands Museum/Judd Plaza, December 31



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Boyd County

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WELCOME TO LAWRENCE COUNTY

Home of Ricky Skaggs

Ricky Skaggs was born July 18, 1954, in the small rural eastern Kentucky town of Blaine. Most would easily agree that Skaggs was a child prodigy. At age three he was singing in church with his mother, Dorothy, and by age five his dad Hobert had given him his first mandolin. With no formal instruction, it wasn't long before the young boy had learned his way around the instrument. Soon he was singing and playing with his family at local churches, fairs, and town socials in his native Eastern Kentucky.

It was about this time that Skaggs had a chance to play on stage with the great Bill Monroe. During a personal appearance in Martha, Kentucky, the local audience requested that the Opry star let "Little Ricky, Hobert and Dorothy's boy" play a tune. Ricky performed "Ruby," on Bill Monroe's Gibson mandolin. Just two years later Ricky performed the same song on Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs' popular Martha White television show. This was to be his first paid performance. He received \$52.50.

Ricky's first major break came in 1970 when he and fellow singer Keith Whitley joined Ralph Stanley's legendary band, *The Clinch Mountain Boys*. As Ralph told the story, "We were late for a show. I think we had a flat tire or something. I walked in and these two boys were singing the Stanley Brothers music better than the Stanley Brothers." After being on the road for four years, Ricky moved to Washington, D.C., where he took a day job for the Virginia Electric and Power Company. By 1974 he signed on as the fiddler with the popular bluegrass band, the Country Gentlemen. Following his gig with the Gentlemen he worked with banjoist J.D. Crowe before forming his own band, Boone Creek, which included dobroist Jerry Douglas.

While in the nation's capitol, Ricky landed a job with Emmylou Harris. He wrote arrangements for the album, *Roses In The Snow*, sang harmony and played mandolin and fiddle.

Ricky released three critically acclaimed records for the independent Sugar Hill Records including *Sweet Temptation* which provided him with his first chart single, *I'll Take The Blame* and an album of duets

with guitarist Tony Rice, *Skaggs and Rice* before moving to Nashville in 1980. Once in Nashville, Ricky soon signed with Epic Records. He produced his debut album, *Waitin' For The Sun To Shine*. The album pro-



duced four chart singles including two back-to-back number ones. Ricky Skaggs was fast on his way to becoming a major country music star.

From that point on, the 1980's belonged to Ricky Skaggs. He joined the world famous Grand Ole Opry in 1982 - at that time the youngest member to be included. More importantly Ricky helped to bring country music back to its roots. He helped to pull country music out of the slick pop sound that had dominated the industry for many years. He blended traditional elements such as bluegrass, gospel, honky tonk, and western swing with state-of-the-art production techniques.

Today, Ricky has gone back to his roots in bluegrass music. Says Ricky, "I always want to try to promote the old music as well as trying to grow and be a pioneer, too."

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Lawrence County Parks "Home of the American Bald Eagle"



Yatesville Lake

& Army Corps of Engineers
State Route 155
Louisa, KY 41230

606-673-1492 (Park Mgr.)
606-686-2361 (Marina)
606-673-1490 (Campground)
606-673-4300 (Eagle Ridge Golf Course)



Yatesville Lake State Park Campground



Eagle Ridge Golf Course



★ Parks/Recreation ★

Lawrence County Riding Stables-Pleasant Ridge Road

Granddaddy Hunting Club-Skeet Shooting
Route 1690 Louisa, KY

Lawrence County Park at Pleasant Ridge-Cabins, picnic
shelters, camping, putt-putt golf, playground, conference
center and amphi-theater.
Call 606-673-1166 or 606-638-4102.

Stella Moore Athletic Complex-lighted ballfields,
playground, concessions (seasonal) and basketball court.
Home of the Louisa/Fl. Gay Little League.
Call 606-638-4102.

Chapman Park-Tennis and basketball courts, restrooms,
picnic shelter and limited camping. Located in the
Chapman community of Lawrence County.
Call 606-638-4102.
Home of the Chapman Reunion on July 4th holiday.

City of Louisa Pool and Recreation Area-Municipal Pool
complex with picnic shelters and basketball court.
Private parties available.
Call 606-638-4050 or 606-638-9038. (Seasonal)

City of Louisa Main Street Park-Picnic shelter, park
benches and gazebo in downtown Louisa.
Call 606-638-4050.

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife-Manages all
hunting and fishing regulations and the Yatesville Lake
Wildlife Management Areas
Call 606-673-3643 or 686-3312.

Fallsburg Community Center-Basketball court, picnic
shelter / gazebo. Call 606-686-3344

Southside Roller Rink-South Pocahontas Street-Louisa
Private Parties Available Call 606-638-3457

Blaine City Park/Community Center/Picnic area
City of Blaine, KY. Call 606-652-9175

★ Lodging/Cabins/Campgrounds ★

Super 8 Motel
U.S. #23 Louisa
800-800-8000 or 606-638-7888

Best Value Inn
117 E. Madison St. Louisa
606-638-9417

Gambill Mansion Bed & Breakfast
Blaine, KY 606-652-3120/800-485-3362

Lawrence County Park
Yatesville Lake State Park
Creek Side RV Park
Falls Campground

Pleasant Ridge Road
Pleasant Ridge Road
5461 N. Hwy. 3-Fallsburg
State Rt.3-Fallsburg

Lawrence County Park
Pleasant Ridge Road
606-673-1166

Creek Side Cabins
5461 N.Hwy 3
606-686-2915

Falls Campground
State Rt. 3-Fallsburg
606-686-3398

606-673-1166
606-673-1490/673-1492
606-686-2915
606-686-3398

Lawrence County Tourism Commission
Louisa, KY

1-888-521-6789

Lawrence County Recreation Board
1-606-638-4102

www.lawrencecokytourism.com
www.Parks.ky.gov



LAWRENCE COUNTY

Events

April

Camper's Appreciation Weekend-
Yatesville Lake State Park
Call 606-673-1492

June

Car Show-"Country Music Highway Cruise-
In-Car Show" hosted by Wendy's Restaurant
Call 606-638-0043

July

July 4th Independence Day Celebrations
Louisa and Fallsburg communities
Fireworks, parades, music and concessions
Call Louisa at 606-638-4050 and
Fallsburg Community Center at
606-673-3344/673-3131

Car Show-"Cruise-In Car Show"
Downtown Louisa hosted by
Dee's Drive Inn Restaurant
Call 606-638-4646 or 606-686-2880

August

Bluegrass Festival
"Coal Miner's Bluegrass Festival"
Lawrence County Park at Pleasant Ridge
Call 606-673-1166 or 606-638-4102

September

Lawrence County Septemberfest-
An old-fashioned street festival held in
downtown Louisa on the weekend
after Labor Day
Free musical entertainment featuring
Nashville artists, carnival, food and game
booths, car show, beauty pageant, craft show,
bass fishing tournament
and many more activities
Call 606-673-3344 or 606-638-9451 or
visit the website at www.septemberfest.net

October

Appalachian Bike Tour
For the beginner as well as
the avid bike enthusiasts
Call 606-638-4743 or visit the website at
www.appalachianbiketour.org.



Unique Shops/ Attractions

Wurf's Antiques
102 West Franklin Street
Louisa, KY 606-638-0992

Green Thumb Garden Center
4411 Highway Louisa, KY
606-638-0597

Hometown Florist
111 E. Madison Street
Louisa, KY 606-638-9228

Louisa Flower & Gift Shop
Highway 2565 Louisa, KY
606-638-4054

**On Eagles Wings
Christian Bookstore**
4359 Hwy 2565 Louisa, KY
606-638-3393

Ceramic Cellar
206 Perry St. Louisa, KY
606-638-4405

Country Candles
62 Rollings Road Louisa, KY
606-686-3291

Poppy's Flower & Gifts
210 E. Madison Street
Louisa, KY 606-638-4028

Louisa Flower & Gift Shop
123 S. Main Cross Street
Louisa, KY 606-638-4054

M & J Outfitting
1220 Highway 1185 Louisa, KY
606-686-3350

Hole in the Wall Flowers & Gifts
6370 Hwy 23 N Ulysses, KY
606-673-4600

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Louisa, Kentucky
606-638-4185



Wellman Hardware
309 East Main Street

Louisa, Kentucky
606-638-4185

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Larry Cordle

Larry Cordle was born and raised on a small family farm in eastern Kentucky. At a young age, he was introduced to bluegrass, country, and gospel music by his great-grandfather. Cordle fondly remembers this early influence by pointing out, "we lived so far away from everything, that we had to make our own entertainment. Music was just a way of life me, for all of us actually."

After graduating from high school, Larry spent four years in the Navy and after being honorably discharged, attended Morehead State University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. "I just didn't see how I could ever make a living doing only music," he explains, "so I worked for a CPA firm during the day and played in clubs at night."

All the while, Larry desperately wanted to devote to music completely, but his commitments would remain divided until he wrote a song that changed everything. Cordell, Kentucky was not only home for Larry, but also for his childhood friend and neighbor, Ricky Skaggs.

Upon hearing Larry's new song, "Highway 40 Blues," Ricky promised that he would one day record it. In the summer of 1983, it was the number one song in the nation, helping to launch Larry's songwriting career and



Skaggs' country music career.

In 1985, at Ricky's urging, Larry gave up the stability his office job offered and moved to Nashville to be a full-time staff writer for Amanda-Lin Music.

At last count, Cordle's songs had appeared on projects that had sold a combined total of more than 50 million records, by artists such as Alison Krauss, Rhonda Vincent, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, Reba McEntire, Diamond Rio, Alan Jackson, and many others.

Local Restaurants

★ Hometown Favorites ★

Dee's Drive Inn ★ ★
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507 Lackey Ave
606-638-3319

Giovanni's Pizza
403 N. Lock Ave.
606-638-9053

Mom's Place
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606-638-3233

Lil's Pizza
5942 Hwy 1690
606-673-3950

Café Louisa
118 S. Vinson Ave
606-638-3778

Dock's Pizza
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606-673-3333/
673-4433

Fallsburg Pizza
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606-686-2833

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U.S. 23/3 Louisa, KY 606-638-9999



WELCOME TO JOHNSON COUNTY

Home of Crystal Gayle & Loretta Lynn



Crystal Gayle grew up in Butcher Holler, KY and is Loretta Lynn's baby sister. Crystal was the youngest of eight children and the only not born in the little cabin at Butcher Holler. Crystal jokes that her mother sensed she'd have trouble out of her and that's why she decided to give birth to her in the hospital.

Born Brenda Gayle Webb, Crystal changed her name at the suggestion of her older sister Loretta, since there was already a "Brenda Lee" in the music industry.

Complete with a brand new name, Crystal began a recording career envied by many.

Her latest project, "All My Tomorrows", contains timeless classics such as "Cry Me a River", "Sentimental Journey", "It Had To Be You", and "Smile". "These are songs any artist loves to sing," stated Crystal in a recent interview.

One of Crystal's most beloved songs, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue", made her a household name from Louisville to Leningrad. Thanks to this song, Crystal became CMA's "Female Vocalist of the Year", for two consecutive years, and became a Grammy Award Winner for "Best Female Vocal Performance". Crystal also received three "Top Female Vocalist" statuettes from the "Academy of Country Music Awards".

In the mid 1970's, Crystal was seen on her own prime time special on CBS television. This CBS special was followed by a groundbreaking HBO concert special viewed by millions. She appeared in Bob Hope's historic NBC-TV Special, "On The Road To China." She was seen hosting the "American Music Awards," the "Academy of Country Music Awards", and her third network special, "A Crystal Christmas from Sweden." She has toured extensively in the US, as well as Japan, England, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Australia and the Far East.

No matter how many television specials or tour dates, Crystal never has forgotten her roots. She remains attached to the area in which she was rocked on the porch and sung to as a child.

Loretta Lynn was born in Butcher Hollow (pronounced "Holler"), Ky, on April 14, 1934. The second of eight children born to Ted and Clara Webb, Loretta was welcomed with open arms by the young couple. With her parents blessing and encouragement, young Loretta soon found her voice and a place where it would be appreciated. During the first twelve years of her



life, she sang in churches and at a variety of local concerts.

At age thirteen, Loretta married Oliver "Mooney" Lynn. Within the first few months of marriage, Mooney and Loretta's brother, Jay Lee Webb, Jr., hitchhiked to Washington looking for work. Thirteen year old pregnant Loretta stayed behind until Mooney sent money and a train ticket several months later. Settled into a new state, fourteen year old Loretta gave birth to her first child, Betty Sue, in Custer, WA. As a young mother and housewife, Loretta stopped singing publicly, and shared her passion for music with her young daughter, singing to her regularly.

By the time she was seventeen, Loretta had four children. Inspired by his wife's vocal abilities, Mooney bought her a guitar on her eighteenth birthday, and Loretta began to teach herself to play. Within a few months, Loretta was writing her own music and with her husband's encouragement, she began singing with a local band on the weekends.

Loretta's big break came when Mooney entered her in a local talent contest. Not only did she win, but she also received a personal invitation from Buck Owens to perform on his television show. This was only the beginning of a groundbreaking career for Loretta which included numberless hit records and countless personal appearances.

Today, Loretta is a successful businesswoman who owns her own music publishing company. She also owns and operates a Dude Ranch and campground in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, which features a plantation-style home and an exact replica of her childhood home.

US 23: John Boy's Country



His family's Eastern Kentucky roots helped prepare actor **Richard Earl Thomas** for his first major role as *John Boy Walton*, and continue to be a resting place for a man whose acting career boasts approximately 50 films.

The fourth of five generations of men with the name Richard Thomas was born in New York, where his father, Richard Scott Thomas, and mother,

Barbara Thomas, ran the New York School of Ballet.

Beginning an acting career at 6 and appearing on Broadway at for the first time at 7, Richard Earl Thomas landed the part of John Boy Walton at 21.

Although his access to Broadway resulted from his father's leaving Johnson County via the old U.S. 23 at 17 to pursue his dream of dancing, it was the summer visits he made to visit grandparents Richard Harry and Grace Thomas at their Jenny's Creek farm that helped prepare him for his most famous role.

This is how I had an affinity for this part," Thomas, 55, said in June 2006 while visiting the Mountain HomePlace in Johnson County. "It fit like a glove."

Thomas narrates the video depicting the culture the Mountain HomePlace captures and has supported the tourist attraction since its beginning.

He spent summers in Johnson County from about age 4 until his 20's, Thomas said, at which time his visits were less frequent as he was appearing on the nine-year series *The*

Waltons, embarking on a career that would see him make approximately 50 films, host numerous shows, appear in a host of television series, and branch out to produce and direct several productions.

He is also the spokesperson for Mercedes Benz and BB&T Bank.

"Summer was about doing nothing and this is a great spot for it," Richard Earl Thomas said.

Visiting his father in June, who moved to the Jenny's Creek farm about a year ago, Thomas was seeking rest between filming Stephen King's *Nightmares* and *Dreamscapes*, which debuted on TNT in July, and hitting the stage in the Broadway production of "12 Angry Men."

"It's a little more peaceful than Manhattan," Thomas said.

"The farm has been in the family for 60 years," Richard Scott Thomas said, adding he moved back to take care of it, but visits New York frequently and still teaches ballet.

The "peaceful" atmosphere of Eastern Kentucky has been home to the Thomas family since 1907, beginning with Richard C. Thomas, who is not only the first of five successful Thomases who have carried his name, but was the first mayor of Paintsville. He came from Wellston, Ohio to be superintendent of North-East Coal Company at Whitehouse, Auxier, and Thealka.

The fifth Richard Thomas carries the middle name Francisco and is the 30-year-old son of Richard Earl Thomas. He is an entertainment writer and freelances for the L.A. Times, Richard Scott Thomas said.

By Loretta Tackett

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Hylo BROWN



Hylo Brown was born Frank Brown in Johnson county, Kentucky in 1922. He earned his nickname "Hylo" thanks to his trademark vocal range.

Hylo moved with his family to Ohio, but not before he had thoroughly absorbed the music surrounding his Appalachian home. After moving to Ohio, his career began to blossom. He played on local radio and began writing songs, one of which was recorded by Jimmy Martin. In 1950, he sang harmony for Bradley Kincaid.

In 1954 Hylo signed a recording contract with Capitol Records. In 1957, he joined Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, becoming a featured vocalist with the Foggy Mountain Boys. Due to Flatt and Scruggs' popularity, the duo formed a "spin-off" group called the Timberliners, putting Hylo as their frontman. The Timberliners performed on television stations in Tennessee and Mississippi, and later in West Virginia.

In the early '60's, Hylo cut a few solo records, including "Bluegrass Balladeer", "Bluegrass Goes to College", and "Hylo Brown Meets the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers." Throughout the '60's and early '70's, he performed solo in clubs, releasing records infrequently on small labels. Hylo retired in the mid-1970's. He passed away January 17, 2003.

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WELCOME TO FLOYD COUNTY

Home of Dwight Yoakam



Respected roots country singer-songwriter **Dwight Yoakam** was born in Pikeville, Ky and spent much of his boyhood in Betsy Layne. In 1956, Yoakam, the eldest of three children, moved with his family to Columbus, Ohio, where he began playing guitar and listening to vintage country and honky-tonk at an early age. During his teens Yoakam

played in various rock and country bands, but by the time he was in his 20s he had settled on country and moved to Nashville to seek his fortune. At the time (the late 1970s) the country establishment was interested in slicker styles than Yoakam's stripped-down sound, so he relocated to Los Angeles and took refuge in the local punk rock scene, where his raw style attracted country fans and underground rock fans alike. By the mid-1980s Yoakam was played on college radio, and in 1986 he made his full-length debut with *Guitars, Cadillacs*, which attracted both rock and country fans and earned critical praise. Thanks to the Top 5 hits *Honky Tonk Man* and *Guitars, Cadillacs*, the album went platinum.

In 1984, the release of a mini album on the Enigma label led to him signing for Warner Brothers. Two years later he registered Top 5 US country chart hits with Johnny Horton's *Honky Tonk Man* and his own *Guitars, Cadillacs*. His driving honky-tonk music made him a popular visitor to Britain and gave him some success in the USA, but his outspoken views denied him wider fame. In 1987 he scored with his version of the old Elvis Presley pop hit *Little Sister*. He followed it in 1988 with a US country number 9 hit with his idol Lefty Frizzell's classic *Always Late (With Your Kisses)*, and a number 1 with his self-penned *I Sang Dixie*. He would also make the top of the country charts with *The Streets Of Bakersfield*, duetting with veteran '60s superstar Buck Owens.

In 1997 he released *Under the Covers*, a collection of countrified covers that includes material by Van Morrison, the Beatles, Ray Davies and the Clash, returning to hard country with *A Long Way Home* the fol-

lowing year.

Yoakam played several concerts with Owens, after being instrumental in persuading him to come out of retirement and record again for Capitol. Like Don Williams and others, he seems permanently attached to his stetson, perhaps due to his receding hairline, while the graphic designers of his album sleeves would seem to suggest that his long jean-clad legs and backside are his main selling features. There seems little doubt that Yoakam's songwriting talents and singing style will ensure further major success and some of his honky-tonk music has done much to attract the rock audiences, much in the way that Garth Brooks has done.

Casting an eye on another facet of Los Angeles' entertainment world, Yoakam began acting. After appearing on TV, Yoakam played a truck driver in John Dahl's acclaimed neo-noir *Red Rock West* (1993); he then provided the music score for *Red Rock West* star Dennis Hopper's 1994 comedy *Chasers*. Yoakam played a larger part in the TV docudrama *Roswell* (1994) (not to be mistaken for the 1999 teen series). After moving to a starring role as a rodeo clown in the action movie *Painted Hero* (1995), Yoakam earned critical raves for his intense performance as an abusive drunk in Billy Bob Thornton's Oscar-winning drama *Sling Blade* (1996). Yoakam again garnered positive notices (though the movie did not) as a humble safe-cracking associate of the titular gang in *The Newton Boys* (1998). Sticking with off-center screen fare, Yoakam

subsequently starred as one of the detectives that Owen Wilson's serial killer, Van, imagines is stalking him in Hampton Fancher's idiosyncratic crime story *The Minus Man* (1999). Aiming to try more creative pursuits, Yoakam wrote and directed, as well as scored and starred in, his next film, *South of Heaven, West of Hell* (2000). Yoakam returned to acting in David Fincher's thriller *The Panic Room* (2001).



U.S. 23 COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY MAP

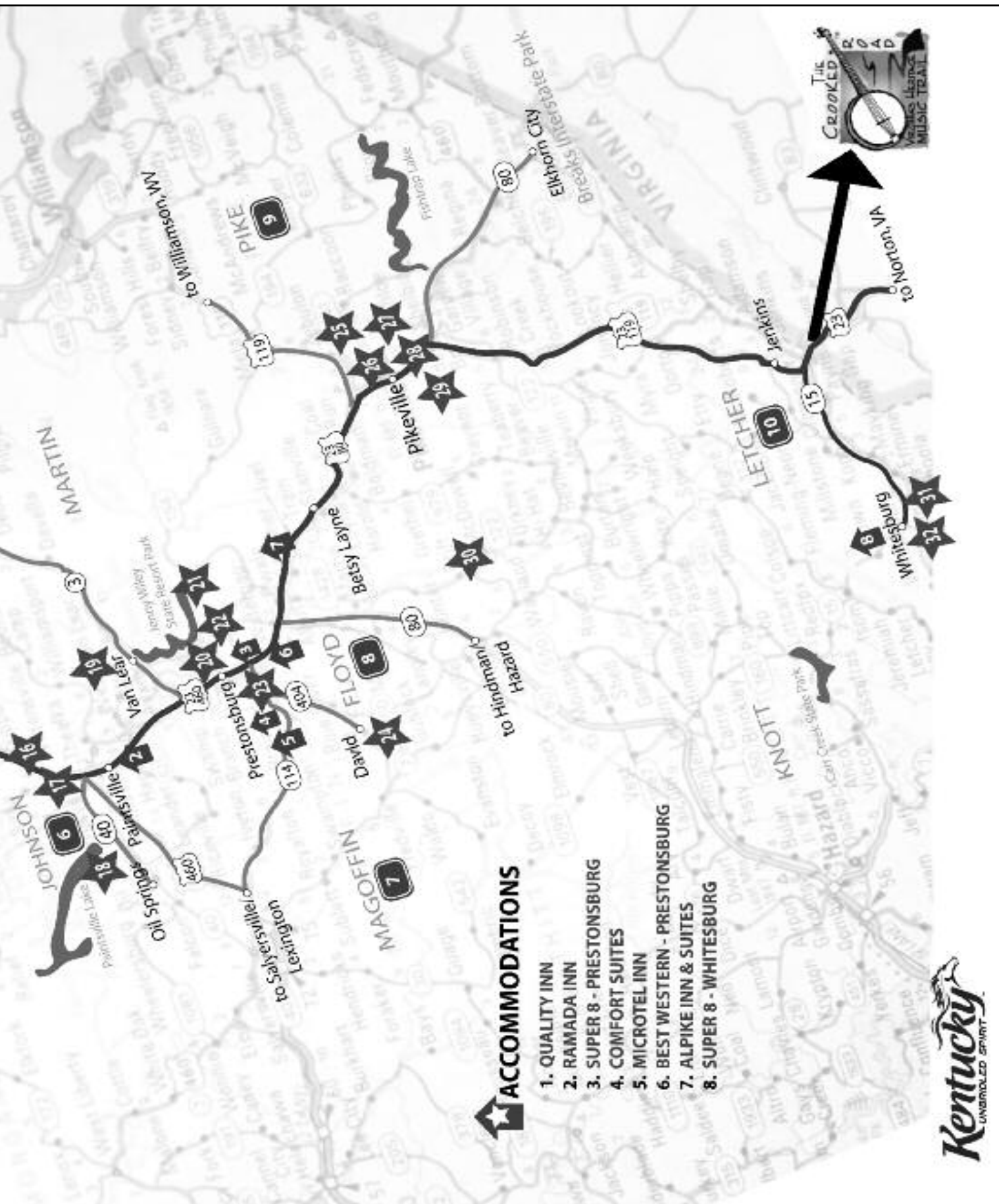


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2. TOM T. HALL
3. THE JUDDS
4. KEITH WHITLEY
5. RICKY SKAGGS
- LARRY CORDLE
6. LORETTA LYNN
- CRYSTAL GAYLE
- HYLO BROWN
7. REBECCA LYNN HOWARD
8. DWIGHT YOAKAM
9. PATTY LOVELESS
10. GARY STEWART

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12. GREENBO AMPHITHEATER
13. PARAMOUNT ARTS CENTER
14. HIGHLANDS MUSEUM & DISCOVERY CENTER
15. THE PAVEILLON
16. COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY MUSEUM
17. MEMORIES
18. PAINTSVILLE LAKE
19. LORETTA LYNN'S HOMEPLACE
20. EAST KENTUCKY SCIENCE CENTER & PLANETARIUM
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www.jwtheatre.com

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Floyd County

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out on a hunting expedition.

In a flash, Indians rushed into the Wiley home, killing Jenny's three oldest children, and capturing Jenny Wiley and her baby son. Shortly afterward, the Indians also killed Jenny's youngest child.

After many months in captivity, the brave Jenny Wiley managed to escape and make her way back to Harmon's Station in what is now Johnson County.

She then returned to Walker's Creek where she was reunited with Thomas. They had five more children.

Jenny Wiley was a great heroine who showed much faith and courage in her time of peril, and her story has touched many hearts all throughout the great state of Kentucky.

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by Staci Carriere

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Elk were originally native to all of Kentucky. But due to mismanagement, over hunting, and habitat destruction they were eventually extirpated from the state. By the time the Civil War touched Kentucky 150 years ago, there were no elk left in the state. In the mid 1990s, The Fish and Wildlife Commission began building a plan to return elk to 14 east Kentucky counties. The habitat of Appalachia - mountains, forests, and reclaimed strip mines - was ideal for elk. Since there was very little agriculture in this 2.2-million acre area roughly the size of Yellowstone National Park, returning elk seemed to make sense. The people of east Kentucky quickly embraced the idea. Returning such a majestic animal to its native range not only corrected the wrongs of a century and a half ago, but it created opportunities for tourism in a beautiful part of Kentucky hungry for visitors. The Commission solicited financial help from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and they responded with almost \$1.5 million to start the project.

Then, on a cold December day in 1997, the governor of Kentucky opened the door of a trailer and released



seven Kansas elk into eastern Kentucky. More than 4,000 people watched from the surrounding hillsides. But the Commission's efforts didn't stop there. Kentucky's plan originally called for the release of 200 elk a year for the first nine years. That was too long. They stepped up the stocking rate. We finished stocking elk in 2002, four years ahead of schedule. The 1,550 elk stocked since 1997 form the nucleus of a herd that numbers about 6,000 today. Today, Kentucky is home to the largest elk herd in the eastern United States. In a few more years, it will number 10,000. What a tremendous resource. Elk population now thrives in the Bluegrass state.

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WELCOME TO PIKE COUNTY

Home of Patty Loveless



Patty Loveless was born in Pikeville, Kentucky and spent much of her childhood in Elkhorn City, Kentucky - a small town near Belcher Holler. She, like Loretta Lynn, was the daughter of a coal miner. Eventually the family was forced to leave their eastern Kentucky home and move to Louisville to seek medical treatment for her father, John Ramey's, black lung disease.

It's hard to say whether it was life in the mountains where everyone knew everyone or the loneliness of the big city that burnt the sorrow in Patty Loveless' voice. Either way, the loss and the longing permanently colored the voice that touches so many hearts. Patty used to sit in the kitchen and sing *Sounds of Loneliness* for her father. It was his favorite song, possibly because of his loneliness for the mountains.

The Ramey's house was filled with music - the Opry on the radio, her mother humming and singing around in the kitchen, her brothers' and sisters' records. At age six, the family got its first TV, and the country based programming of the era - "Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs had a show, which Daddy never missed on Saturday, the Wilburn Brothers had a show with Loretta Lynn and various guest artists, also the Porter Wagoner show was always in the background," Loveless recalls.

"When I saw these people doing this, they looked like they were having such a good time," Loveless remembers. "There was such a love there, you could tell. So whenever I would see a movie on TV - and you have to realize I was 6 years old, so TV was like bringing the world into our home - me and my cousins would pick out characters we wanted to be. Whatever character was up on the TV screen, singing and dancing, I'd think, 'That's what I want to be'."



There's nothing quite like being a kid from the backwoods in the big city. Loveless found herself struggling in school and socially after the family moved to Louisville. Recognizing her struggle, her father bought Patty a small guitar when she was 11. While it didn't make the world perfect, it provided an outlet the child truly needed.

"Here I was, a kid that talked funny, and every time I opened my mouth, I was afraid someone would make fun of me," she confesses. "I was very shy and I had been used to having my brothers and sisters around me. Back home, we all went to the same school together and rode the same bus home. There was this little store across from the school where a lot of the older kids would gather. It had an area that had a soda fountain and had a counter with six bar stools for sitting, a juke box and a wooden floor for dancing. I would sneak over during my lunch break and spend all my lunch money in that jukebox. From hanging out around that little store, I heard a lot of music for a dime. All that changed in Louisville."

These days, "when I record music, I do the songs as if they're about me. For the person listening, I let them decide if it's something they could've experienced, too, because music can be as true for the listener as it is for the singer...to



do that, I have to really dig down in order to get to any kind of emotion. You can't just sing, you have to feel it.

"Whenever I'm recording or performing a song, I tend to revisit my life - where I've been, what I've done, people I've met. I think about my Mom and my Dad, my brothers and sisters, all the special moments we've had. Because, you know, every day was exciting in its own way because I could fantasize and dream.

"So with this music I do, a lot of my past is the place where it all begins. Revisiting the place where I come from is what lets me make music I can feel. This is the music I grew up on and it's the music that is who I am at the core."

Pike County

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- Branham Productions: a Full Service Recording Studio operated by Jeff Branham.
- Cotton Patch Hollow Pottery: a pottery and jewelry making studio operated by Justine Bradford.
- Sally Scott's Studio: a visual artist who enjoys murals and painting.
- Tracy Lipking: as a visual artist, Tracy works in several mediums.
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- 7 working artists studios
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- community art classes

- monthly rotating art exhibit and reception on the first Friday of every month - "First Friday".

Facility History

We are very interested in discovering the history of the building.

Below is a list of what we have discovered so far...

The building used to be a record store called "Jen and Mikes"

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Founded: In 2006 by a small group of Artists with the support of Stephanie Richards, Fine Arts Agent.

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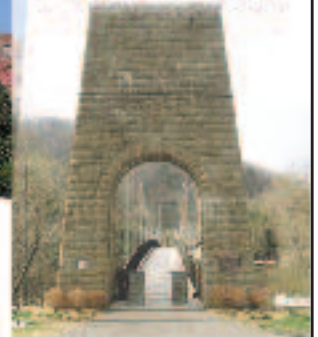
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Pike County



One of the most famous feuds in history happened right here in Kentucky. It was the feud between the Hatfield's and the McCoy's.

No one knows exactly what the cause of the feud was. Some say it began when Floyd Hatfield stole a pig belonging to Randolph McCoy. Supposedly, Randolph spotted Floyd stealing one of his pigs. Randolph was furious, and they went to court. The jury consisted of 6 Hatfield's and 6 McCoy's. The verdict was...that Hatfield was innocent. The final clincher was a testimony which stated that it was, in fact, Hatfield's pig.



Others may tell you the feud's fire was fueled because of the love between Roseanna McCoy, Randolph's daughter, and Johnse Hatfield, the son of William Anderson, or "Devil Anse," Hatfield. The story is like a 19th century version of Romeo and Juliet. Roseanna spotted Johnse one day, and it was love at first sight. One night, while with Johnse, instead of going home, Roseanna stayed with him. Later, after Johnse refused to marry her, and after many pleas from her mother, Roseanna went back home. Life at home, though, was intolerable for the poor girl, so she later moved in with her aunt, Becky McCoy. This allowed the two lovers to get back together. One night, while they were together, Roseanna's brothers surrounded her and took Johnse prisoner. They said they were taking him to jail, but Roseanna believed otherwise. Roseanna rushed to Devil Anse's house on horseback to tell him. Anse quickly came to his son's aid, and rescued him.

Whatever the cause, violence was always common between the families. But the worst was to occur on January 1, 1888. A group of Hatfield men, led by Devil Anse's uncle, Jim Vance, raided Randolph McCoy's home. Fearing that this raid would lead to court trials, the Hatfield raiders threatened to kill anyone who would testify against them, leading to more friction between the families.

The Hatfield's set fire to a McCoy home, killing Alifair and Calvin, two of Randolph's children, and injuring his wife, Sarah. Randolph was unharmed. Some Hatfield's were sent to prison, and one was ordered to be hanged.

Everything seemed to calm down after Devil Anse Hatfield moved near Logan and joined the Baptist church. He died in 1921. Randolph McCoy had died seven years earlier.

The Hatfield's and McCoy's now have a huge family reunion in Pike County and have signed a peace treaty. The families are no longer feuding and hold the Hatfield-McCoy Reunion each June in Pikeville. Hatfield-McCoy Historic Feud Sites Audio Driving tour is now available. For more information contact the Pike County Tourism Commission at 1-800-844-7453.

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Staci Carriere



WELCOME TO LETCHER COUNTY

Home of Gary Stewart



Gary Stewart was born May 28, 1945, in Jenkins, Ky. His family moved to Florida when he was 12, where he made his first record for the local Cory label and played in a beat group called The Amps.

Teaming up with a policeman, Bill Eldridge, he wrote Stonewall Jackson's 1965 US country hit *Poor Red Georgia Dirt*. Several songwriting successes followed including

chart entries for Billy Walker (*She Goes Walking Through My Mind, When A Man Loves A Woman (The Way I Love You), Traces Of A woman, It's Time To Love Her*), Cal Smith (*You Can't Housebreak a Tomcat, It Takes Me All Night Long*) and Nat Stuckey (*Sweet Thang and Cisco*). Stewart recorded an album for Kapp Records, *You're Not the Woman You Used to*

Be, and then moved to RCA Records. He had his first US country hit with a country version of the Allman Brothers' *Ramblin' Man* and then made the Top 10 with *Drinkin' Thing*. For some years Stewart worked as the pianist in Charley Pride's road band and he can be heard on Pride's *In Concert* double album. He established himself as a hard-driving, honky-tonk performer with *Out Of Hand* and a US country number 1, *She's Actin' Single (I'm Drinkin' Doubles)*. His 1977 *Your Place or Mine* included guest appearances from Nicolette Larson, Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell. His two albums with songwriter Dean Dillon were not commercial successes, and Stewart returned to working in honky-tonk clubs. However, drug addiction got the better of him and his life collapsed when his wife left him and his son committed suicide. In the late 80's, he returned to performing, carrying on in the same style as before with albums such as *Brand New* and *I'm a Texan*. He was found dead in his Florida home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound on December 16th, 2003.

Marion Sumner "Fiddle King of the South"

Marion Sumner, who earned the title "Fiddle King of the South", was raised on George's Branch, above Vicco in Perry County. His years on the road with Opry stars Johnny and Jack, Kitty Wells, Roy Acuff, Jim and Jesse, and Don Gibson made him a legend among fellow musicians. Marion Sumner's influence as a fiddler upon others of his generation was notable, particularly on Kenny Baker, who won wide acclaim as a sideman for Bill Monroe over a long period. Although born in sunny Florida, Marion Sumner moved with his parents back to their Kentucky mountain homeland in 1921.

His extended family contained numerous musicians and young Marion became something of a child prodigy. At age 10, he was especially captivated by the fiddling of the Grand Ole Opry's Arthur Smith. At 16, Marion took his first radio job with the Haley Brothers at WCPO Cincinnati, Ohio. After winning a fiddle contest during the 1937 Black Gold Festival in Hazard, he gained the attention of Cousin Emmy and joined her group where he performed for several years. During WWII, Sumner worked briefly for Molly O'Day and Lynn Davis, and then with Eddie Hill and Johnny Wright (replacing Paul Warren, who was in the service). In the post-war period, Marion worked as a sideman with many bands on WKIC in Hazard. He later joined Don Gibson and Chet Atkins in Knoxville and Esco Hankins in Lexington. Marion spent briefer periods with Cowboy Copas, the York Brothers, Preston Ward,

Archie Campbell and the then youthful duo of Jim & Jesse.

Sumner also fiddled extensively on the night club circuits in Cincinnati, Columbus and Knoxville. Somewhat surprisingly, he recorded but sparingly in his wide travels, doing a session with Preston Ward for King Records in 1947 and no more than two with Don Gibson. Marion got off the road in 1965. For a time he worked in a band called the Payroll Boys, but mostly just honed his skills. In 1979, he cut a well-received album for June Appal. In the mid-80's, he waxed two more albums, both with the assistance of Jesse McReynolds, who always held Marion's fiddling in high regard. Marion was also the featured fiddler in the hit movie "Coal Miner's Daughter", the Loretta Lynn Story.

Before his death on August 17th 1997, Sumner lived in retirement in Isom, Kentucky in Letcher County.



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LETCHER COUNTY



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Appalshop uses education, film, radio, recordings, theater, music and other arts ♦ to document, disseminate and revitalize the lasting traditions and contemporary creativity of Appalachia; ♦ to tell stories the commercial cultural industries don't tell, challenging stereotypes with Appalachian voices and visions; ♦ to support communities' efforts to achieve justice and equity and solve their own problems in their own ways; ♦ to celebrate cultural diversity as a positive social value; and ♦ to participate in regional, national and global dialogue toward these ends.

Visit Appalshop in person at 91 Madison Street in Whitesburg, 12 miles off US 23, near the Virginia border. Or visit the website at www.appalshop.org. The site includes information on each Appalshop project, a calendar of events, and directions for buying Appalshop films and June Appal recordings.

Why "Appalshop"? Think Appalachia and you'll get the connection. The word Appalshop is an abbreviated version of Appalachian Media Workshop, which denotes Appalshop's origins in the 1960s as a place for young people to learn about filmmaking and preserving their mountain culture.



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♦ *Paramount Joe's Rising Star Café* (located in the Paramount Arts Center) features up-and-coming stars of the future every Friday beginning at 7 PM (if there is no other event scheduled at the Paramount). Admission is only \$5.00 at the door. Call 1-606-324-3175.

Johnson County

♦ In *The Pines Amphitheater* at the *Mountain Homeplace* near *Paintsville Lake* offers seasonal live music. 606-297-1469

♦ *The Country Music Highway Museum* – a variety of music performances. For specific information call 606-297-1469 (see ad on pg. 44)

♦ Opening Soon - *Memories* featuring various music activities, dancing and great food (non-alcoholic venue). Please see ad on page 20.

Floyd County

♦ *The Mountain Arts Center* in Prestonsburg is home to the Kentucky Opry – a fantastic family variety show with performances throughout the Summer and during the Christmas season. (see ad on page 29) There are also many other great concerts and special events. For ticket information call 1-888-MAC-ARTS or go to www.macarts.com.

♦ Every Thursday starting on June 28th to August 2nd at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg enjoy *Front Porch Picking Bluegrass Jam Session* 7 PM. FREE BYOB (Bring your own banjo!).

Pike County

♦ The beautiful *Pikeville Exposition Center* (seating over 6,000) features some of the biggest names and events in the region (see ad on page 36). For event information call 606-444-5500 or go to www.eastkyexpo.com.

Letcher County

♦ The *Appalshop* in Whitesburg is a hub of musical activity including an old fashioned jam which is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month from October to May. Sessions usually start at 11 AM. Appalshop also has live

bluegrass shows with some of the top bluegrass entertainers. These shows take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please call 1-606-633-0108 to check on these and other events or go to www.appalshop.org. (See ad on page 43).

♦ Don't miss Old Tyme music and square dancing on the second Saturday of each month from March – September at the community center in *Carcassonne*. For more information please call 1-606-633-7958.

♦ More Old Tyme music and dancing at *Cowen Creek Community Center* on the 1st Saturday of each month. The dancing starts at 7 PM. Please call 1-606-633-3187 for more information.

There are many more live performances at festivals and special events throughout the year along The Country Music Highway. For a complete and current list of events please go online to:
www.countrymusichighway.com

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More Country Music Stars of Eastern Kentucky

Not only is the Country Music Highway a hot bed for stars, but all of Eastern Kentucky. The following are stars from nearby regions of the Country Music Highway.



Tom T. Hall was born at Olive Hill, Kentucky, in nearby Carter County, on May 25, 1936. He started out playing music as a teenager, in a band he put together called "Kentucky Travelers." After that, he performed over The Armed Force Radio Network while in the army, and later

became a radio announcer at WRON in West Virginia.

His big break came in 1963, through songwriting. Country singer Jimmy C. Newman recorded his song, "DJ For a Day." Hall moved to Nashville, and in the blink of an eye, his songs were at the top of the charts. His nickname became "The Storyteller," and he wrote songs that were later recorded by artists such as Johnny Cash, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Alan Jackson, and others.

In 1968, Jeannie C. Riley had a major hit with Tom's song "Harper Valley P.T.A." It spent three weeks at the top of the charts and was voted Single of the Year by the Country Music Association. This hit brought attention to Hall's own recording career. "Ballad Over 40 Years," his first song to make the top ten, went all the way to no. 4 on the charts.

Throughout 1969 to early 70's, Hall had numerous hit singles such as "A Week in a Country Jail," "The Year That Clayton Delaney Died," "Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine," "I Love," "Country Is," "I Care," and "Faster Horses (The Cowboy and the Poet)."

Hall planned to retire in 1986, though artists still continued to record his songs. In 1996 he recorded *Songs From Sopchoppy*, his first album in ten years. At the same time, Alan Jackson recorded his own rendition of Hall's "Little Bitty," and that song stayed no. 1 for three straight weeks.

Tom T. Hall continues to write original songs, and has his own recording studio, still contributing to the ever-thriving bluegrass community.

Jessie Keith Whitley was born on July 1, 1955 in Sandy Hook, Kentucky. He was singing at an early age, and won a talent contest at age four. He learned to play guitar at eight, and in just a year he was performing at a local radio station. Whitley started his first bluegrass band at age 13, then formed the Lonesome Mountain Boys with his high school friend, Ricky Skaggs, a few years later.

In the late 1960's, Ralph Stanley invited Whitley and

Skaggs to join The Clinch Mountain Boys after Stanley's brother, Carter, passed away. They stayed with The Boys for two years, and in 1973, Whitley left the group. He went through various country bands, as opposed to bluegrass. He then returned to The Clinch Mountain Boys in 1975, and stayed with them for another two years.

In 1978, Keith Whitley joined JD Crowe's band, The New South, which he later left in 1982. He signed with RCA and released his first solo album, *Hard Act to Follow*, in 1984.

In 1986, Whitley married his wife, rising star Lorrie Morgan, and reached the top 20 for the very first time with "Miami, My Amy." Whitley finally reached no. 1 in 1988 with "Don't Close Your Eyes," followed by "When You Say Nothing At All," and "No Stranger to the Rain."

Sadly, Keith Whitley passed away due to alcohol poisoning on May 8, 1989.



Crossover country-pop singer **Rebecca Lynn Howard** grew up in Salyersville, KY, and moved to Nashville in 1997, where she began a career as a songwriter. Her compositions were recorded by singers like Patty Loveless, Reba McEntire, Lila McCann, and John Michael Montgomery.

When Howard began recording on her own, she drew just as much from adult contemporary pop as she did from country, much in the manner of Shania Twain's crossover bids. After a delay for some retooling, her self-titled debut album was released in the spring of 2000. The album was a minor success, but she didn't make the splash anyone expected and she returned to the studio to retool her approach. Cutting some of the obvious commercial elements of her debut while alternately bringing in newer ones, resulting in 2002's better received *Forgive*. ~ Steve Huey, All Music Guide

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