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Kentucky's US 23
Country Music Highway
Travel Guide

2008-2009



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On The Cover



On the cover is the McKenzie house from the "Mountain HomePlace", in Paintsville, KY (Johnson County). This house is part of a working farm depicting life in the late 1800's in rural eastern Kentucky. Pictured above is the administration building for the farm. The quilt square featured here was originally made by local resident Jon Preston's great great great grandmother during the Civil War. Jon's family has lived in Johnson and Morgan counties for generations.

You can find additional information on the Mountain HomePlace on page 20, and on the area's quilt trail on page 44.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Eastern Kentucky and the Country Music Highway. Our area is rich in history and we hope you can enjoy and learn from our unique heritage while in our area.

US 23 Country Music Highway Travel Guide 2008/2009

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For questions or comments, contact Goodytyme Productions

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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**, and **Country Music Highway Museum**. 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**, located 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!



MISS BILLIE JEAN OSBORNE

Billie Jean Osborne is one who has forged herself a place in the hearts of Floyd Countians near and far, as well as gaining the respect of many others. The pages of history are already indelibly marked by the hand of Billie Jean Osborne, the founder of one of the county's brightest stars, the Mountain Arts Center and the Kentucky Opry.

"Miss Billie", as she is affectionately known by many, was born and reared in Betsy Layne, where she attended school as a youngster and later returned to teach music and to serve as Betsy Layne High School's award-winning band director. Under her direction, the "Marching Bobcat Band" received state recognition year after year.

Miss Billie, however, began her teaching career at the tender age of 17, at W.D. Osborne Elementary. "I was so young, the principal had to sign to be responsible for me," she said. At Osborne Elementary, and throughout the county, her talents quickly became known and her attentions sought after.

"Everything I have been, and everything I am, I owe to my wonderful Christian mother," she said. "God gave me the talent and mother gave me the discipline. So God and my mother are what made me what I am, any glory belongs to God and to having a good Christian mother who was strong enough to instill that discipline." Osborne said that throughout her years teaching the youth of Floyd County, she "always dreamed of having a place where students from all across this region could work, study music, and perform to an audience in a quality theater atmosphere, set right here in Eastern Kentucky."

In 1990, she brought together a group of talent-

ed musicians and performers gleaned from the very hills of her native region. She dubbed this group "The Kentucky Opry," from which the "Kentucky Opry Junior Pros" soon followed. For several years, Osborne and her musicians performed from the backs of pickup trucks in local parking lots and in various school auditoriums, as well as from the stage of the Jenny Wiley Theatre. "We just made do however, and wherever we could," she said. The group soon gained acclaim through both word-of-mouth and rave reviews.

Her talented performers held special performances for statesmen and potential sponsors. Miss Billie soon convinced a wide array of supporters that the talent of our region deserved to be showcased in a state-of-the-art music center and performance hall.

Finally, in the autumn of 1996, Miss Billie's dream came true when the doors of the Mountain Arts Center were opened to the public. Miss Billie's "kids" finally had a place they could call their own!

Stellar performances by both regional talent as well as nationally known musicians have graced the stage of the arts center and Miss Billie is more than proud of her Kentucky Opry and Junior Pro performers.

Miss Billie, who has received numerous honors, recently received a special honor of which she is most proud when her alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University, recognized her as one of Kentucky's most successful people. "I like the honors," she said, "but really, God gets the glory, not me."

More recently, the Highway's Red Bud Festival Event honored Miss Billie by having a Kentucky Opry Reunion Show, featuring past and present "KO" members. The show was sprinkled with testimonials and laughter, as well as tears.

Miss Billie Jean continues to be an integral part of the lives of Floyd County children, traveling to every school in the county, making sure every child has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of music. It is for this reason, that we have chosen to dedicate this year's magazine to Miss Billie Jean Osborne.

For more information on the Mountain Arts Center or the Kentucky Opry call:

1-888-MACARTS or **www.macarts.com**

Article courtesy Kathy Prater, Floyd County Times

Photo: Paula Goble

Great products/souvenirs to purchase along the Country Music Highway!

Reading:

Dave Trippin: A Daytripper's Guide the Appalachian Galaxy of Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.
 Hundreds of day trips and ideas for traipsing about the tri-state region. (see review on page 7).



Bluegrass Music:

Bo Isaac's "I'm Not Living Life, Its' Living Me" is one of the best bluegrass CD's ever produced! The reviews on this recording from around the world for this Floyd County native were nothing less than phenomenal. If you

want to take home the best of bluegrass music from the region then make sure you get a copy of "I'm Not Living Life, Its' Living Me." Most of the songs on this project were written by Bo Isaac however, the title cut was penned by Tom T. Hall and rose to #14 on the Bluegrass Unlimited Charts. Produced by Steve Gulley and distributed on The Goodtyme Label.

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Country/Gospel Music:

Angie Carriere "Starting Today" – Angie is truly one of the finest talents in the region. Her CD demonstrates her rich pure vocals, musicianship (fiddle and flute) and songwriting abilities. You can see Angie and her talented children (Staci and Josh) perform this summer and Christmas season with the Kentucky Opry on the Mountain Arts Center stage in Prestonsburg, KY. The Carriere Family is scheduled to have a brand new CD released this year. Information will be posted at www.thecarrierefamil.biz and www.goodtyme.com.

Big Sandy Singers (group and solo musical projects) – They are an auditioned, elite student singing group from the Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) based in Eastern, Kentucky. The singers have performed several times on WYMT-TV (CBS affiliate), the Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center and at many other festivals, concerts and special events throughout the region. Their musical projects are available at the BSCTC bookstore – 1 Burt T. Combs Drive in Prestonsburg, KY. For additional information or sample their music go to www.bigsandysingers.com.



DVD:

The Rhythm of My Soul: Kentucky Roots Music: As many or more famous country stars were born and raised in southern and eastern Kentucky as any other place in America. A testament and demonstration of the many aspects of country music: Country, Gospel, Bluegrass, Mountain. Featuring some true national treasures playing and demonstrating including: 77 year old Mountain banjo picker Lee Sexton, 80 year old fiddle maker Buddy Ratcliff who played with Merle Travis, The Tri-City Messengers, a Gospel group made up of retired black coal miners, and many more. This documentary was telecast by PBS throughout the entire country. Produced for the Southern & Eastern Kentucky Tourism and Development Association.



Products available in Country Music Hwy Regional Stores or online at www.countrymusichighway.com



DAVE TRIPPIN

Country Music Highway Featured in Family Travel Series Now a Book

You've seen Dave Lavender on WSAZ's Your Weekend Ahead. You've read Dave Lavender in The Herald-Dispatch. You've maybe even heard him on WKEE, WAMX and WTCR giving Dave's Drive-Through Weekend. Now Dave Lavender has cranked out a publication longer than a country mile – it's Dave Trippin, the book. Weighing in at 273 pages, "Dave Trippin: A Day Tripper's Guide to the Appalachian Galaxy of Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia." (\$14.95, Lavender Publishing) is here. Featuring nearly a dozen trips in each state, "Dave Trippin," takes readers on an always adventurous and



usually humorous family journey to some of Appalachia's coolest towns such as Berea, Ky., Athens, Ohio and Fayetteville, W.Va., and the region's big cities including Lexington, Columbus and Cincinnati.

Dave, who grew up just off of the Country Music Highway, features Eastern Kentucky prominently in the book.

"One of the greatest joys of Dave Trippin" is traveling around my home region, continuing to learn, explore and to be inspired by the area's beautiful, natural places," Dave Lavender said. "Our area is blessed to have the creations of such visionaries and musical pioneers along The Country Music Highway as Martin Childers of Jenny Wiley Theatre, and Billie Jean Osborne, of the Kentucky Opry in Prestonsburg, Ky. These folks and so many others have created magical, musical adventures that light up our own lilly backyard like fireflies."

Just some of the highlights of the book's journeys through Kentucky include:

* A trip to one of the world's largest winter-time caving events, Crawlathon at Carter Caves State Resort Park in Olive Hill, Ky.



- * The Kentucky State Parks' Family Adventure Quest at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park in Greenup, Ky.
- * A trip to the region's largest lake Cave Run, one of the southeast's best muskie fishing lakes near Morehead, Ky.
- * A trip to the area's largest parade and festival, Hillbilly Days in Pikeville.
- * A climb up the last firetower in the Daniel Boone National Forest.
- * Some clogging over to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley.
- * A trip to see the only Moonbow in the western hemisphere.
- * A hike to see the highest water fall in Kentucky, Yahoo Falls at Big South Fork National Recreation Area.



Buy Dave Trippin the book at local book stores and travel stops along The Country Music Highway and online at www.davetrippin.com



WTCR 103.3 PREDICTS A HOT COUNTRY SUMMER AND FALL FOR EASTERN KENTUCKY!

The days are getting hotter and longer and WTCR 103.3 is serving up HOT COUNTRY CONCERTS for country music listeners of all ages.

WTCR 103.3 has been nominated for the third straight year for the ACADEMY of COUNTRY MUSIC STATION OF THE YEAR for small market country stations. One of the reasons is WTCR's association with the promotion of great country artists and live performance concerts.

In the coming months WTCR will help sponsor and present:

♦Ricky Skaggs 6/13 – Kentucky Music Trail Concert/ Paramount Arts Center, Ashland, KY. (606-324-3175 or ticketmaster.com to order tickets)

- ♦Sarah Johns & Marty Stuart 7/3 – Summer Motion, Ashland Riverfront, Ashland, Ky. FREE
- ♦Lady Antebellum & Tracy Lawrence 7/4 - Summer Motion Ashland Riverfront, Ashland, KY. FREE
- ♦The OAKS 7/25 (formerly the OAK RIDGE BOYS)- – Kentucky Music Trail Concert Paramount Arts Center, Ashland, Ky. (606-324-3175 or ticketmaster.com to order tickets)
- ♦Pogue Landing Days –Sept 19th and Sept 20 -15th Street, Ashland, Ky. Stay Tuned to WTCR 103.3 for more details, Great country headliners and ALLSHOWS FREE
- ♦Vince Gill 9/23 – Kentucky Music Trail Concert Paramount Arts Center, Ashland, Ky. (606-324-3175 or ticketmaster.com to order tickets)
- ♦John Berry Christmas Concert 11/8 – John kicks off his tour at the Paramount Arts Center, Ashland, Ky. (606-324-3175 or ticketmaster.com to order tickets)
- ♦Loretta Lynn 11/14- – Kentucky Music Trail Concert Paramount Arts Center, Ashland, Ky. (606-324-3175 or ticketmaster.com to order tickets)

Log on to WTCR.com for more information and to listen in to WTCR 103.3

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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 58 upgraded sites featuring water, electric and sewer sites with 8 pull thru RV sites available with 35 tent camping 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.



Toll Free Reservations 1-800-325-0083
<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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An event sponsored by: The Greenup County Tourism and Convention Commission
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Vendors Wanted!!!



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



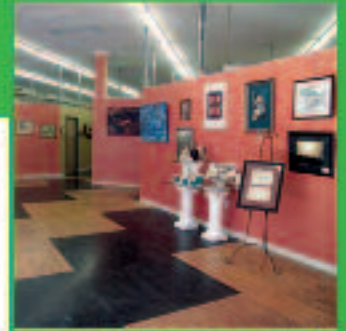
Area Attractions

- Ashland Main Street**
1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-325-7692
- Paramount Arts Center**
1300 Winchester Avenue, 606-324-3175
- Pendleton Art Center**
1517 Winchester Ave. 606-920-9863
- Fannin Antique Car Museum**
U.S. 60 W, 606-929-9000
- Highlands Museum & Discovery Center**
1620 Winchester Avenue, 606-329-8800
- Jesse Stuart Foundation**
1645 Winchester Avenue, 606-326-1617
- City of Catlettsburg**
26th & Broadway Street, 606-739-5223
- Ashland Central Park**
17th & Central Avenue, 606-327-2046
- Ashland Floodwall Murals**
Riverfront, 606-329-1007
- Ashland Tennis Center**
1300 Oakview Road, 606-329-2245
- Wolfpen Woods Pioneer Village**
939 Balts Park Road, 606-928-6975
- Ashland Historical Walking Tour**
Downtown Ashland, 606-329-1007
- KYOWA Hall**
10699 US Rt 60, 606-928-3835
- Ashland Town Center Mall**
500 Winchester Ave, 606-324-1100
- Catlettsburg Antique Mall**
2606 Louisa St. - Catlettsburg
606-739-9786



2008 Festivals & Events

- Annual Brass Band Festival**
Ashland Central Park, June 7, 12, 17, 24, 27
- MRP Bluegrass Junior Golf Tournament**
Bellefonte Country Club, June 27
- Summer Motion**
Central Park/Riverfront, July 2 - 4
- Independence Day Parade**
Downtown Ashland, July 4
- Patriotic Firework Display**
Riverfront, July 4
- Boyd County Fair**
Boyd County Fairgrounds, August 12 - 16
- US 23 Road Rally**
Groesup Co. to Letcher Co., August 23
- Youthfest**
Riverfront, August TBA
- Catlettsburg's Labor Day Celebration**
Downtown Catlettsburg, Labor Day Weekend
- Kentucky Senior Games**
September 17 - 21
- Poage Landing Days**
Downtown Ashland, September 19 - 21
- Chill Fest**
Paramount Arts Center, September 27
- Halloween Festival**
Ashland Central Park, October 30
- Holidays at the Highlands**
Highlands Museum, November 7 - December 31
- Winter Wonderland of Lights**
Central Park, November 17 - January 2
- Festival of Trees**
Paramount Arts Center, November 22 - 30
- New Year's Eve Celebration on the Plaza**
Highlands Museum & Judd Plaza
December 31
- Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital**
Tennis Classic, ATC - TBA



2008 Festivals & Events

- Easter Egg Hunt**
Ashland Central Park, April 7
- Donkey Derby**
Ashland Central Park, May 10



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RICKY SKAGGS

Saturday, June 14, 8 pm

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THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

Friday, July 25, 8 pm

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VINCE GILL

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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 produced 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

**Explore Lawrence County Kentucky
Recreation - Unique Shopping - Cultural Events**

Yatesville Lake State Park



Marina

Campground

Golf Course

*606-673-1492 (park mgr) *606-686-2361 (marina) *606-673-1490 (campground)
*606-673-4300 (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

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Best Value Inn
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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
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Lawrence County Tourism Commission
PO Box 267 Louisa, KY 41230
606-638-4102

Lawrence County Recreation Board
606-638-4102

www.lawrencecountytourism.com
www.Parks.ky.gov



LAWRENCE COUNTY

Events

Country Music Hwy Yard Sale
Last weekend in May
606-638-4102

City Wide Yard Sale
Downtown Louisa
June 7, 2008
606-638-4050

Lawrence County Farm &
Home Field Day
June 20, 2008
606-673-9495

City of Louisa July 4th Celebration
Music, Parade, Fireworks
606-638-4050

Coal Miner's Bluegrass Festival
August 2, 2008
Lawrence County Park
606-638-4102/606-686-1166

Lawrence County Septemberfest
Old-fashioned Street Festival
Downtown Louisa
606-673-3387
www.septemberfest.net

Appalachian Bike Tour
Yatesville Lake State Park
Sept. 20, 2008 (Rain date 9-27)
www.appalachianbiketour.org
606-638-0753

Halloween Haunted Trail
Lawrence County Park
Last two weekends in October
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111 E. Madison St., Louisa KY
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On Eagles Wings Christian Bookstore

Food City Plaza, Louisa KY
606-638-3393

Farmhouse Memories Florist & Antiques

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606-638-7800

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606-638-9981

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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.

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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.

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While in Paintsville visit our other tourist sites

Butcher Hollow, home to Loretta Lynn and Crystal Gayle

The Van Lear Historical Coal Museum

In the Pines Amphitheater at Paintsville Lake

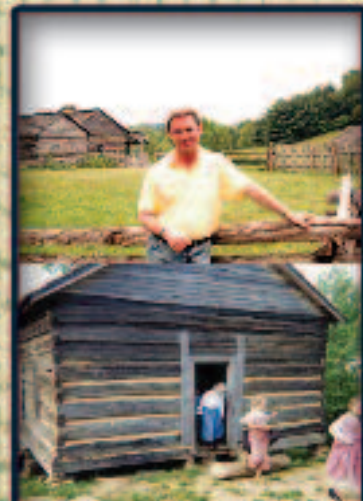
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Kiwanis Walking Trail

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Kentucky
LANDS OF AMBIT

JOHNSON COUNTY

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 front-man. 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.

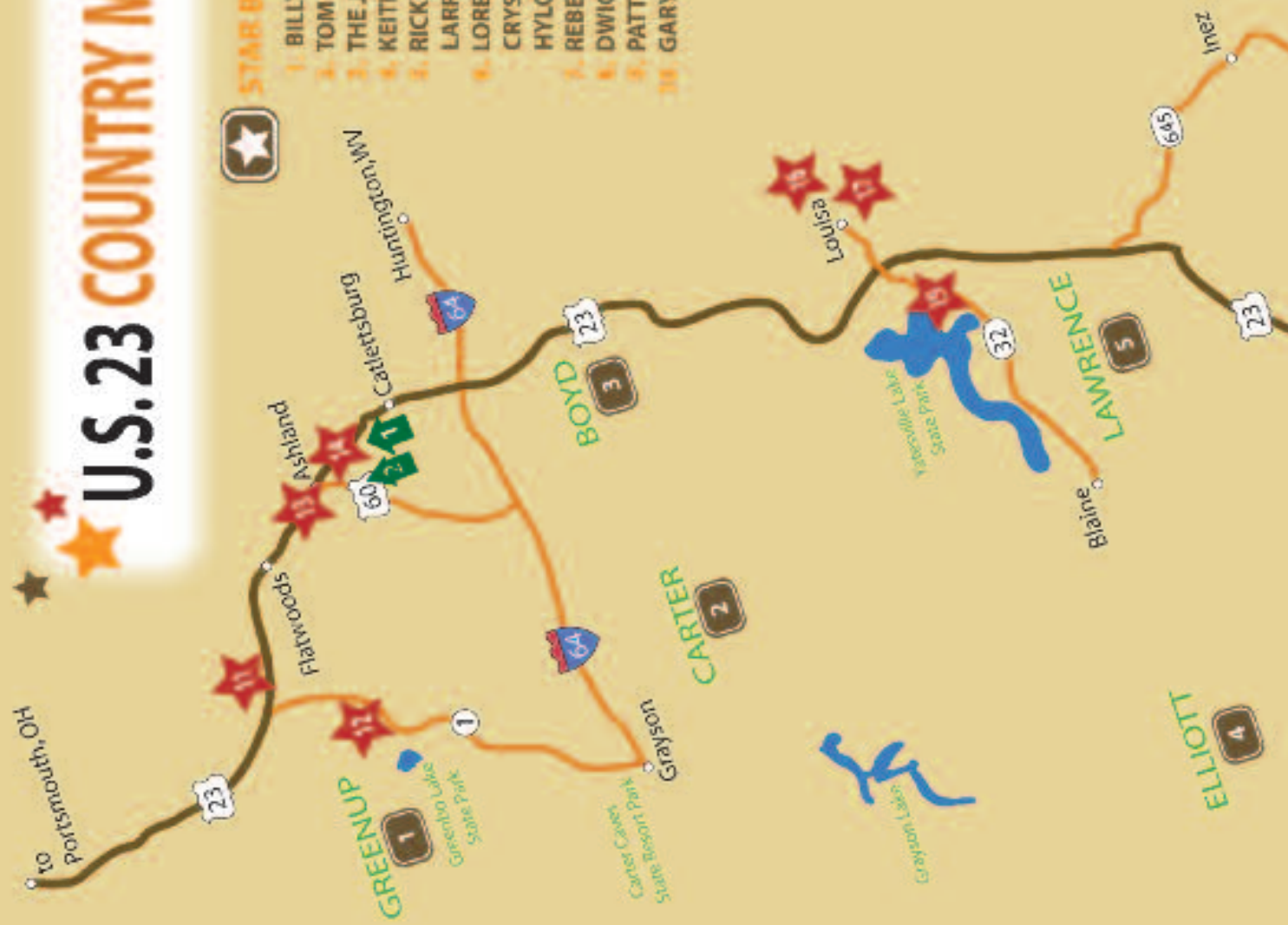
Yoakam played several concerts with Owens, after being instrumental in persuading him to come out of retirement and record again for Capitol. Like Don Williams and others, he seems permanently attached to his stetson, perhaps due to his receding hairline, while the graphic designers of his album sleeves 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



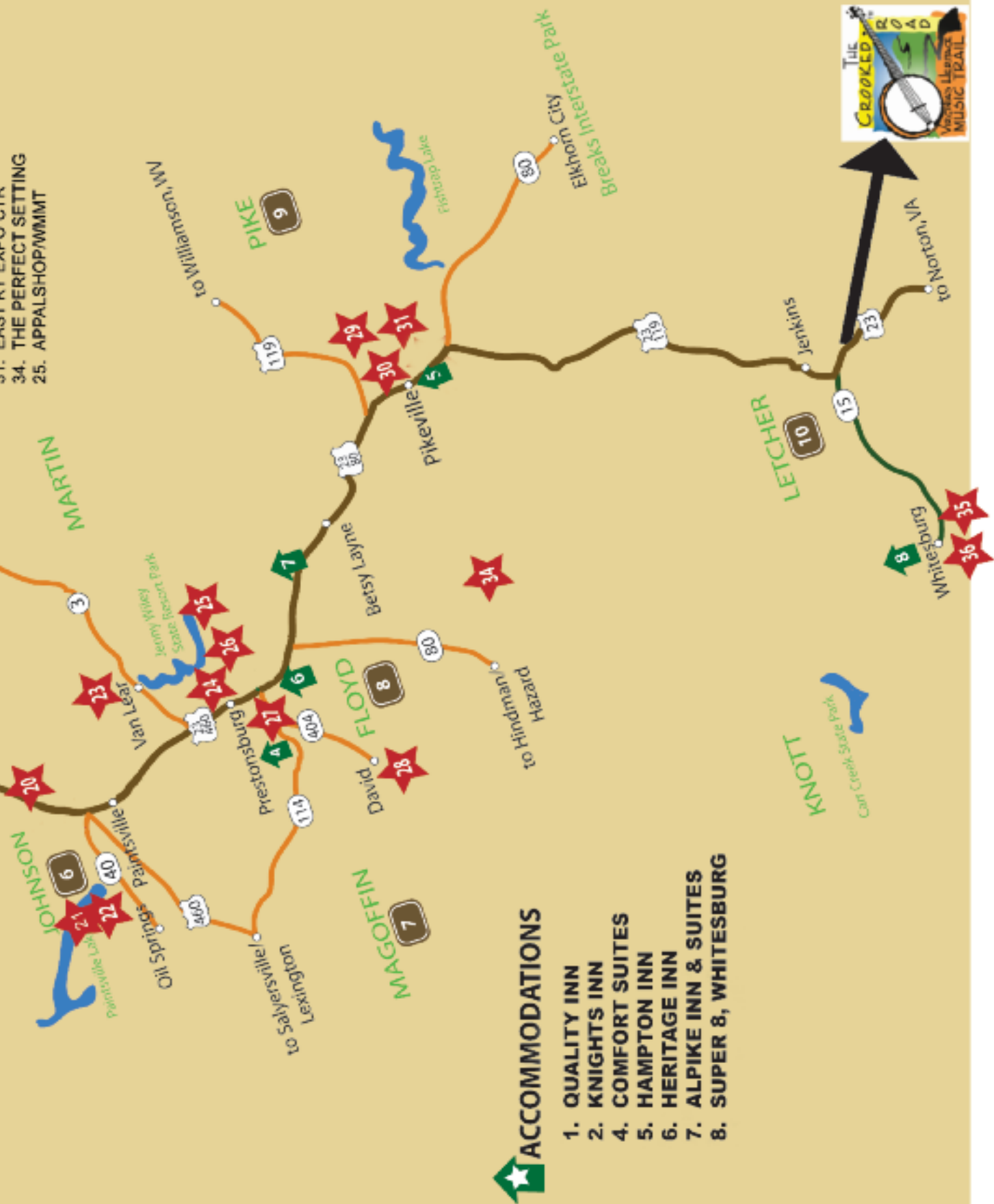
STAR BIRTHPLACES

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

★ STAR ATTRACTIONS

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16. WELLMAN HARDWARE
17. LOUISA-FORT GAY BRIDGE
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21. MOUNTAIN HOMEPLACE
22. PAINTSVILLE LAKE
23. LORETTA LYNN'S HOMEPLACE
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FLOYD COUNTY



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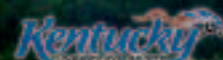
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THE JENNY WILEY STORY



Jenny Wiley is one of the most famous heroines in all of Kentucky. Her story is known to almost each and every one of the mountain inhabitants. This is her story:

In a settlement in Walker's Creek, in the year 1789, Jenny Wiley and her four children were settled down one evening at home while Jenny's husband, Thomas Wiley, was

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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Secondly, Prestonsburg is the Star City because visitors can attend a great musical production outdoors at **Jenny Wiley Theatre** under the beautiful evening stars. This year four shows rotate throughout the eight weeks of the summer; "A Chorus Line", "The Wizard of Oz", "Honky Tonk Angles" and "Little Red: Life in the Hood". The season opens June 13th.

The **Mountain Arts Center** stage presents stars like Loretta Lynn, Ricky Skaggs, or other US 23 Country Music Highway stars each year. The MAC is the home of **The Kentucky Opry**, the best local talent this side of the Smokey Mountains. They produce various holiday theme shows throughout the year and have a Saturday night schedule during the summer, starting June 21st.

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Prestonsburg also features **Jenny Wiley State Resort Park** and **Dewey Lake**, where thousands of visitors enjoy fishing, boating, camping, and nature watching. The May Lodge features rooms and cabins and convention space in the **Wilkinson/Stumbo Convention Center**.

Archer Park is a thirteen acre park in Prestonsburg featuring, tennis, swimming, picnic shelters, ball fields, and horse ring.

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Prestonsburg has many craft shops including the **David Craft Center**. There is also a mix of collectables and specialty shops, restaurants, and modern motels.

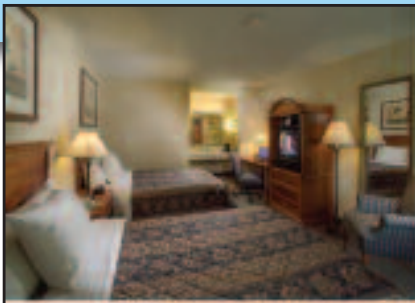
Visitors can enjoy the **US 23 Country Music Highway Yard Sale**, May 29-31, 2008, the **East Kentucky Fair**, July 31-August 2, the **Highland Folk Festival**, September 19-20, 2008, and the **Jenny Wiley Festival**, October 6-11, 2008.

Call for information, 1-800-844-4704, or visit www.prestonsburgky.org



An advertisement for David Appalachian Crafts. The background is light blue with a decorative border of musical notes and a treble clef. The text is written in a cursive, hand-drawn style. At the top, it says "David Appalachian Crafts" followed by "6369 Hwy 404 David, KY" and the phone number "606-886-2377". Below this is a list of products: "Hand Painted Gourds", "Jewelry", "Wall Hangings", "Baby Items", "Kitchen Items", "Handcrafted Coal & Wood", "Art Reproductions", and "Fabric". At the bottom, it says "Shop Online at" followed by the website "www.davidappalachiancrafts.com". On the left side of the border, it says "OH! It's Patsy coal for stoker coal always". On the right side, it says "buys what proves itself you know.". At the bottom of the border, it says "Clean and dry, just right for size and the wise man".

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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 treat-

ment 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."

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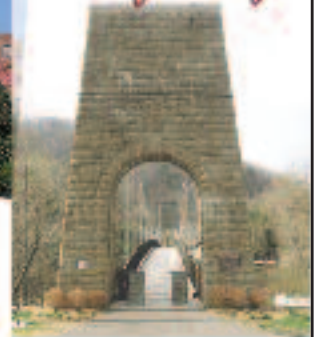
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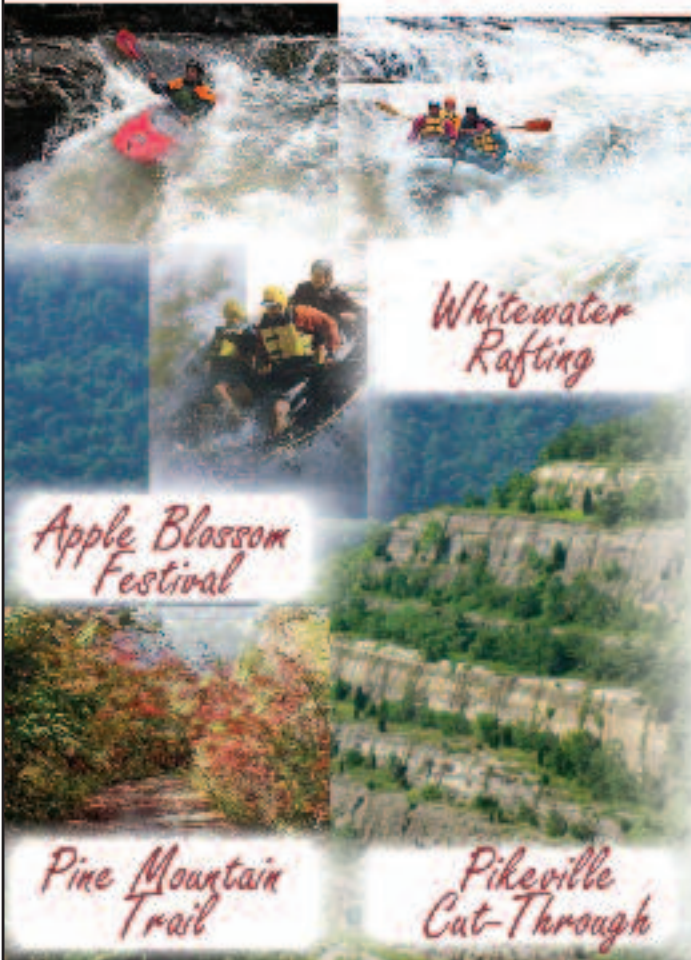


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PIKE COUNTY



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 intol-

erable 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.

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.



LETCHER COUNTY

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Photo © Becky Johnson



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"Visit Letcher County: Mountain Music, Mountain Heritage"



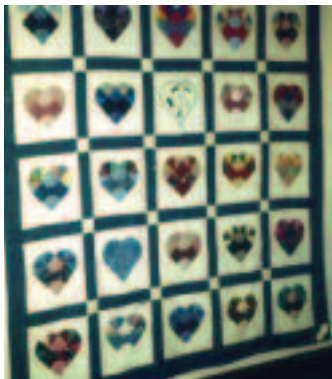
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COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY'S TRAIL OF QUILTS

Taking a page from the tradition of barn art from the Mail Pouch Tobacco ads to the recent Ohio Bicentennial Barns in 2000, the idea of painting giant quilt patterns in public places (mostly on barns on country roads) was birthed in the hilly Ohio River county of Adams, by Donna Sue Groves. She wanted to honor her mother, Maxine, an avid quilter, by painting one of her quilt designs on a barn. You could say that the idea stuck.

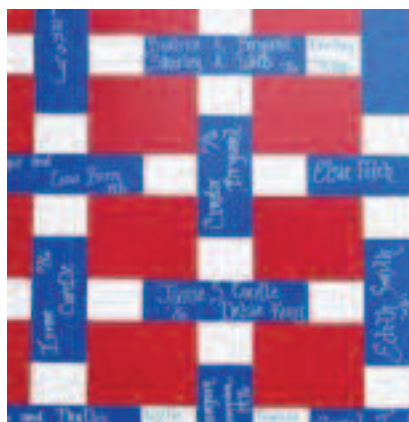
It is very difficult to travel very far without noticing these attractive quilt squares on old barns and other highly visible locations. Each quilt pattern represents an intriguing story and is thus sought out by many travelers. Those traveling along the Country Music Highway will be interested to know that most of the quilt square patterns in this region have some sort of musical connection.



We have selected a few for you to enjoy including the "Achy Breaky Heart" quilt designed in honor of Billy Ray Cyrus, one of our US 23 Country Music Stars from Flatwoods, KY in Greenup County.

In Lawrence County Singer/Songwriter, Larry Cordle has provided an interesting story about a quilt that was made by his grandmother, Myrtle Bryant Martin in the 1970's. She had all her neighbors (probably women) sew their names on a patch of fabric that she gave them and indicate the year that it was done. The project took about 3 to 4 years to complete. It was known as the "friendship" quilt with all names on separate squares embroidered together with all the dates. The year was 1976 and because of the US Bicentennial the quilt was done in red, white and blue.

Larry states that "Mamaw's quilt takes me back, to a simpler time where neighbors knew, loved and cared for each other in times of crises. A place where I was born and raised and so proud to be from and where I will return (to) when this life ends."



Note: The Larry Cordle Family Quilt will be displayed at the Sun Pavillon on US 23 at Louisa, KY (Lawrence County)

From Johnson County you have another couple of famous US Country Music Star sisters, Crystal Gayle and Loretta Lynne. The first one is a cottage quilt that was presented to Crystal after performing a concert for Habitat for Humanity. Tina Penix is the artist. The quilt is being displayed at the Van Lear Coal Miners Museum.



A quilt block in Loretta Lynn's honor was painted by Debra Burchett. The design was selected because this was the center of the quilt commissioned by Paintsville Tourism in honor of her work. It was presented to her after the Kentucky Apple Festival and now

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hangs at the Country Music Museum.

Below are a few quilt squares to look for in Floyd County



Kentucky Bluegrass can be seen at the Mountain Arts Center on Route 114 just off U.S. 23.

Best of All is located at Stone Crest Golf Course at the top of Maggie Mountain.



*David Appalachian Crafts is home to this **Double Wedding Ring Block**.*

These are just a few of the beautiful Quilt Blocks located in our region. Make sure you take the time to see as many as you can. You will not only see beautiful art but you will see the most breathtaking scenery that this country has to offer!

A special thanks the following:

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Kentucky's US 23 Country Music Highway

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Get your mugs at the following locations:

*Country Music Museum (see ad page)
David Crafts (see ad page)
OSCAR (see ad this page)
and other participating sites.*

Regina Daniels from Paintsville, Kentucky was the portrait artist commissioned for the renderings of each Country Music Star. Regina is known for a variety of art work, but her specialty is Portraits. She is a Highway 23 Roster Artist and a lifetime member of the Route 23 Cultural Heritage Network. She can be reached by calling 606-789-7414.

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