

SCVCC LIFETIME MEMBER RECIPIENT FOR 1980

GENE BEAR

*** PROMOTER *** PRODUCER *** PERFORMER *** MASTER OF CEREMONIES ***

Gene Bear is an individual deeply involved and dedicated to his love, Country Music. He is a respected promoter, producer, performer, MC... and his expertise on Country Music is sought out by radio stations and Country Music periodicals, because of the massive and imposing record and Country Music periodical library he maintains.

He was the host of his own "Bear Country" two years on local cable TV on Channel 8, featuring West Coast Country Music artists. He has been a member (and is presently serving) on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Country Music for eight years, with terms as Vice-President and Treasurer included.

He is Honorary Vice-President of the Friends of the John Edwards Memorial Foundation (an archive and research center at UCLA devoted to the study and preservation of commercially recorded and published American folk music).

A book "1980 Who's Who in Country Music" was co-authored by Gene and several other Country Music experts, is to be released shortly.

Coupled with Gene's intense involvement in Country Music, about 15 years ago he began to promote and produce Country Music shows for the benefit of a multitude of charities. It would be difficult if not impossible to determine the number of shows or the many thousands of charity dollars he is responsible for raising.

Recognition for such compassion has been expressed to Gene from many levels. Many newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, ran feature articles on Gene's endeavors. He subsequently became the recipient of a multitude of awards from such as: "Retarded Children's Association of San Gabriel Valley," The Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Signal Hill Police Department, a resolution from the Los Angeles City Council, etc. At the March of Dimes Awards Dinner, Gene was given a 1979 Achievement Award.

Gene was recently the guest of honor at the First Country Music Celebrity Roast. After the usual festivities of such an occasion, Gene was presented with a resolution for his charitable contributions from the California State Assembly, another from the California State Senate and congratulatory letters for his civic involvement from Governor Jerry Brown and President Jimmy Carter.

Gene has been a member of the Academy of Country Music since 1967.

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MONTIE MONTANA. JR.

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Montie is well known in this country as a promoter and performer in top rodeos, fairs, parades and his own, "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show", which toured Japan and twenty other countries and four continents. He has also successfully promoted feature acts from that show in promotions around the world for major companies such as Carnation, Braniff Airlines, Japan and British Airlines, Bank of America Travelers Checks, and American Express, as well as providing professional western entertainment for local shopping centers and convention centers.

A native son, born in Los Angeles, Montie presently resides in Valencia. Following the footsteps of his famous father, Montie Montana, Montie Jr. took his first horseback ride at the age of three days, and made his first stage appearance at six months. He is a graduate of the University California at Davis, and majored in Animal Science. After earning an Army commission and taking the Officers Basic Course, he was assigned to special services, where he arranged for the entertainment of the troops and other special events, he served as the riding academy officer.

For the past ten years he has concentrated on producing a re-creation of "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" and has taken it to 20 countries and four continents, where he has been universally acclaimed.

Montie has appeared in the Pasadena Rose Parade several times and just recently served as Marshal of the Santa Clarita Valley 54th Annual July 4th Parade in Newhall, an attraction that drew upwards of some twenty thousand people. Montie Montana, Jr. is one of the three honored celebrities being presented with a lifetime Honorary Membership in the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce for his many years of showmanship and dedication to his community and the nation.



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JIMMY WAKELY

REMEMBER THE SONGS "I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT HURTS ME", "BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES", "ONE HAS MY NAME", "OKLAHOMA HILLS"? THEN YOU REMEMBER THE MAN WHO RECORDED THEM, JIMMY WAKELY. MR. WAKELY ALSO RECORDED SOME GREAT HITS WITH MARGARET WHITING, LIKE "SLIPPING AROUND", WEDDING BELLS" "SILVER BELLS" AND MANY MORE.

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN RECENTLY ABOUT "CROSS OVER" ARTISTS. WELL JIMMY WAKELY WAS THE VERY FIRST COUNTRY WESTERN ARTIST TO MAKE IT BIG IN BOTH COUNTRY AND POP CHARTS. IT HAPPENED IN 1950 WHEN THE NATIONAL MUSIC PUBLICATIONS AWARDED HIM NO. 1 WESTERN ARTIST, NO. 3 MALE COUNTRY ARTIST AND MOST IMPORTANTLY NO. 3 POP MALE VOCALIST IN A LIST THAT INCLUDED PERRY COMO - FRANKIE LANE - JIMMY WAKELY - AND BING CROSBY, IN THAT ORDER.

IN ADDITION TO SELLING SEVERAL MILLION PHONOGRAPH RECORDS, JIMMY WAKELY STARRED IN 28 WESTERN PICTURES AS A SINGING COWBOY.

WHILE MAKING IT BIG AS A RECORDING AND MOTION PICTURE STAR, MR. WAKELY APPEARED ON ALL THE BIG TV NETWORK SHOWS INCLUDING: BOB HOPE - MILTON BERLE - ED SULLIVAN - KEN MURRAY - STEVE ALLEN - KATE SMITH AND ARTHUR GODFREY.

STARTING IN 1958, MR. WAKELY LIMITED HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCES ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE WEST COAST, SO THAT HE COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS FAMILY. HE STARTED HIS OWN RECORD COMPANY, "SHASTA RECORDS", AND DOES NOT COMPETE FOR RADIO PLAY, BUT KNOWING THAT HE HAS FANS ALL OVER THE WORLD, STARTED A MAIL ORDER RECORD BUSINESS. WITH VIRTUALLY NO AIR PLAY, JIMMY WAKELY MAKES MORE FROM RECORDS THAN MOST COUNTRY WESTERN ARTISTS. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT, HE ALREADY HAS FANS WHO WANT TO HEAR HIM SING HIS SONGS.

JIMMY WAKELY AND WIFE, INEZ, RESIDE IN A LARGE RANCH HOUSE ON ONE ACRE OF LAND IN SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA OVERLOOKING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY. HE HAS A RECORDING STUDIO IN HIS HOMW WHERE HE MAKES NEW RECORDS TO SOUND LIKE THE 40'S AND 50'S BECAUSE HIS FANS WANT IT THAT WAY. AND WHEN HE OCCASIONALLY PLAYS IN CONCERT OR PLAYS CLUBS, HE FEATURES ONLY THE GREATEST HIT SONGS EVERYONE CAN RELATE TO, TAKING HIS FANS ON A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.







