

The Further Trucking Beaver Got Away, And Other Songs By Cecil Null

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Jonas Bridges has some very humorous friends. One of them, Cecil Null of Madison, Tenn., was here to visit recently.

Null is a tall drink of water with graying blond hair and an ever-present smile. He also has a way with words. He should. He's a songwriter.

Some of you who go back a few years will probably remember "I've Forgotten More Than You'll Ever Know" by Sonny James and The Davis Sisters. Null

wrote that.

"It was my first hit," Null said. "Sonny James recorded it first and it went nowhere. Then the Davis Sisters recorded it and had a hit. Since 1953 that song has been recorded over 100 times."

Even Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash have recorded the tune. Null said Cash recorded the song in 1956 before anyone knew who he was. After he became a big hit, then all of the songs Cash hadn't sold were put into an album.

"My ex-wife has made a fortune off that tune," Null laughed.

Some of his other songs have been "Little Pedro," recorded by Tex Ritter, "Paint Me The Color Of Your Wall," "Same Old Me, Same Old You," and "Mommy, Daddy Tell Me."

"Another of my hits was 'When I Die And Go To Nashville,'" Null said. "There's a story behind that title. Once when I was selling Jim Walter Homes up in the mountains, my boss told me to sing some country songs for the customers. He said the mountain folk just love country music. He said when those people die they

think they're going to Nashville."

Null has done a variety of jobs and according to his tales, all of them must have been fun.

"I owned a music store once," he said. "Well, I only managed it, but the boss was away so much I got to feeling like the store was mine. I remember getting in a damaged piano once. It sold real fast and I had a bunch of calls about more damaged goods. So I took a screwdriver and scratched up some pianos. I sold 26 of them before you could bat an eye. I told the boss those pianos weren't selling when they were in good shape."

While visiting here Null brought out his guitar and sang a couple of his numbers for the staff. One was called "I've Never Cheated In My Life Before, But I'll Hold Still While You Do." Another song he sang was "That Further Trucking Beaver Got Away."

"Song titles? I really don't know where they come from," he said. "Sometimes I hear someone say something that catches my fancy. Other times the words come first, then the title. I started writing

poetry while in the third grade. Songs came from that. I guess when the good Lord gives you a talent, you'll use it whether you get paid or not."

Null has spent most of his life around country music and for a time wrote a column for The Showman, a country music magazine. "I wrote the column in dialect. I used to do exposes on certain country artists, but I wouldn't use their names. I told the truth and didn't no one but me and the artist know who I had written about. They couldn't afford to make a big thing out of it or then everyone would know."

Null and his wife do a few small shows now and then, but neither has any interest in going the big time route. "Oh, I've recorded a few of my own songs. At Christmas I buy a lot of pencils and shoe boxes and make wagons using my unsold records for wheels."

Before he and Jonas left, Null said, "I guess if I'm ever gonna be a success songwriting I've got to quit writing such serious stuff. Do more comedy."

And with that "The Further Trucking Beaver Got Away."



Photo By Tom McIntyre

SIDEWALK CONCERT — Cecil Null of Madison, Tenn., a country music songwriter visiting friends in Kings Mountain last weekend,

dropped by The Mirror-Herald for a chat and to offer a sidewalk concert of his music.



Photo By Lib Stewart

ANOTHER WINNER — Deanie Conner, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Conner, proudly displays the bicycle he won in The

Mirror-Herald summer circulation drive. Pictured with Deanie are Paul Carson, left, and TG&Y Assistant Manager Jim Hill.

Library Presented Bronze Statues By KM Citizens

Mauney Memorial Library has been presented with two bronze statues — one of Hiawatha for the Junior Rooms, and one of Cleopatra for the Historical Section — by Mrs. M. A. Ware in memory of her mother, Mrs. Caroline Ross Pettus. The statues once belonged to Mrs. Pettus and Mrs. Ware said, "I think Mama would be pleased to see them being used in our library." They are an added attraction to the library and the public is invited to come to see them.

The Library would like to encourage citizens to take advantage of the large type books which are available from the State Library free of charge. Please ask the Librarian how you may get these books if your eyesight is poor. Recordings of books are also available for the blind and physically handicapped.

Another service that your library offers is free films for 16 mm cameras. These must be ordered at least 3 weeks in advance of use and a catalogue of these films is in the library.

NEW BOOKS
AT THE LIBRARY
YOUTH
The First Book of Vice

Presidents
Picture Studies of Italy, France, England, China, Japan, West Germany, Russia, Spain and Switzerland.

Biggest Riddle Book in the World
Pantomimes, Charades and Skits.
Hawkins Humorous Monologues
101 Best Magic Tricks
Anatomy for Children
Discover the Trees Could Be Worse!
Easy Crafts Book
Musical Games for Children of All Ages
Mattie — The Story of a Hedgehog
Simple Pictures Are Best

ADULT
Trek to Kings Mountain
Breakaway
Handball Basics
Women in Transition
Karate and Self Defense

Easy Motorcycle Riding
After Dianner Laughter

How to Raise Independent and Professionally Successful Daughters
North America From Earliest Discovery to First Settlements
The Norse Voyages
Kings Mountain Men Golf Explained
People Power (Consumer Action Guide)

Non-Profit Corporations, Organizations & Associations
Ethics and Profits — The Crisis of Confidence in American Business
The Church in The Power of the Spirit
A Garden of Pleasant Flowers.
The Herbal Or General History of Plants
The Picture Book of Annuals

Pvt. Stokes Recently Assigned New Duty

Army Private Leonard V. Stokes, whose wife, Mary lives on Rt. 1, Kings Mountain, recently was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kan.

Pvt. Stokes entered the Army in May 1975. He is a 1970 graduate of Kings Mountain High School.

The private's father, Luella Stokes, lives on Rt. 4, Kings Mountain.

Campaigning Through Cleveland County

Dave McKnight, A Backpacking Candidate

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Dave McKnight of Fayetteville is "walking for the U. S. Senate." The 29-year old Democratic candidate for the Senate seat currently held by Jesse Helms brought his backpack campaign to Kings Mountain Wednesday.

"I'm breaking in my fifth pair of shoes here in Kings Mountain," McKnight said.

The walking tour of North Carolina began last April and will end in October. McKnight said he has "targeted October 22 as the wrapup. At that time I will be in Murphy. After that I

intend to begin developing my statewide campaign in November."

McKnight will be one of about five candidates in the Democratic primary next May.

Before joining the campaign trail, McKnight was an editorial writer for The Fayetteville Observer.

He resigned his job last January when he decided to become a candidate for the Senate.

"As an editorial writer I couldn't get involved beyond the point of expressing an opinion," McKnight said. "I felt strongly about some issues and how they affect people, so I decided to get right to the heart of the matter and try to do something constructive."

McKnight will be 30 in December and he figures that makes him the youngest candidate to seek the U. S. Senate in North Carolina, "at least during my lifetime," he said.

Cleveland County is the 40th county McKnight has visited since last April. He said he hopes to have visited at least 55 counties across the state before the October 22 target date.

The young candidate said he is running because he feels "Helms should be replaced. I think he has done a good job of spotting the evils of bigness in government and business, but he has failed to do anything constructive about the situations."

"I feel there is too much premium placed on bigness," he said.

"This is in both government and our free enterprise system. I am concerned about the unfair burdens placed on small business and family farm operations. I also

feel the federal tax code is far too complicated and should be simplified. I also think we need a complete overhaul of our present system of overlapping welfare programs and move toward a simplified program of direct assistance linked with job and work incentives."

McKnight said he plans to create his campaign organization out of the individuals from every corner of every county in North Carolina he has visited. He said state politics, when examined, are shallow because all the concentration is on the larger areas. There are, according to the candidate, numerous pockets of people who are entirely missed by the politicians.

To keep himself going, McKnight says he likens his tour to that of a traveling baseball team. "I'm a big baseball fan and I know that every week during the season is a crucial week in baseball. I have to figure that every week is a crucial week to me and my campaign."

"I've had my slumps, just like a team has, but now that September is here I've got the fever because the end is in sight," he said.

McKnight spent the morning in Kings Mountain, popping into various businesses to say hello and chat with people, then he took a hitch in his backpack and started out for Shelby.



Photo By

Tom McIntyre

BACKPACK CAMPAIGN — Dave McKnight of Fayetteville is walking through North Carolina counties to campaign for the Democratic nomination to run against Jesse Helms for the U. S. Senate in 1978. McKnight was in Kings Mountain campaigning Wednesday.