



Photo By Henry Grossman

CO-STARRING — Earl Owensby and Ginger Alden, Elvis Presley's fiancée, will co-star in the new EO film "The Living Legend," which is scheduled to go before the cameras in mid-April. Owensby will portray a country-rock singing superstar and Miss Alden the love interest.

The Race Is On

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Recently in one of the Hollywood trade papers it was stated that "the race is on between west coast and east coast producers to see who hits the market first with proposed films.

In Hollywood the producer is Jerry Weintraub, who has bought the rights to the Elvis Presley story. On the east coast (Cleveland County, in fact), the producer is Earl Owensby who is doing "The Living Legend."

"And the phone hasn't stopped ringing," said Earl Owensby, who heads the EO Corporation. "There seems to be a great deal of interest in 'The Living Legend.' It will be the most ambitious film we've attempted to date. Our seventh feature, 'Seabo,' was the largest scale we had attempted, but the new production will go way beyond that in scope."

Owensby will also play the lead (Elvis Presley) in "The Living Legend" and for his co-star and love interest for the film he has

signed Ginger Alden. Miss Alden was the late Elvis Presley's fiancée. This will be her first acting job for film.

Also signed for an important role in the film is Ed Parker, who served as security chief and protective companion to Presley while he was on concert tours. In the film Parker portrays Robbie Marco, Eli Canfield's security chief and long-time personal friend.

"The Living Legend" is the title given Canfield because of his more than 20 years as one of the biggest country-rock singing superstars in the business. Miss Alden portrays Jeannie Loring, a model from Nashville, who becomes Eli's love interest in the film.

The script was written by Tom McIntyre, editor of The Mirror-Herald. His view of the story is that it is "Fantastic. What else did you expect me to say." Seriously, though it is quite a departure from the type of film Earl has done since 1973. Most of those were action and violence oriented. "The Living Legend" is a strong love story between a man and a

woman. But it is also a love story concerning the public and their entertainment field idol. We feel as if the film will capture all of this flavor and we will show how such love affairs can shoot someone to the top and at the same time wear them down."

Owensby said, "We've gone a different route with our story. Instead of the usual show business rags to riches story, we begin 'The Living Legend' with the hero 20 years into his career and still going strong. The characters are so much more complex and even battle-scarred by that time."

The producer-actor was asked (certainly for the umpteenth time) is "The Living Legend" really the Elvis Presley story.

"According to the trades a producer in Hollywood is planning to do the Elvis story," Owensby said. "This is really funny, because our picture has been referred to by journalists and TV commentators all along as the story of Elvis. And I have answered over and over again we are not doing the Elvis story. And always these people come back with 'yeah, I know, but in this story about Elvis, are you going to do thus and so?' So, you see other people are saying this. Not us."

"The Living Legend" will contain a number of brand new songs, which will be done in scenes at concerts, in rehearsal session at the hero's mansion and in recording session scenes. Is Owensby going to do his own vocals...?

"We are negotiating with a song writer-singer named Roy Orbison. Maybe you've heard of him," Owensby said with a wink.

Orbison is another long-termers in the music business, coming on the scene roughly the same time as Elvis Presley. Although Owensby would not say Orbison has been signed, he did say there have been talks concerning at least 10 new tunes and an album in connection with the movie.

Another Kings Mountain who will be connected with the movie is Lewis Dellinger, owner-operator of Dellinger's Jewel Shop. Dellinger will supply the jewelry to be worn by the actors and actresses in the film. Dellinger said, "The diamonds will be the real McCoy. Not costume items."

Owensby said filming will not only be done at the EO Studios here, but at Nashville and Miami as well as other far-flung locations to be announced later.

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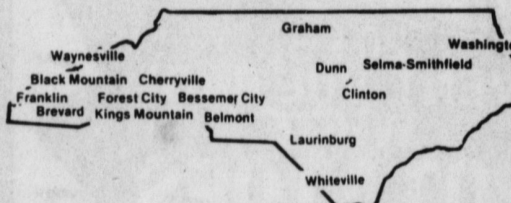
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