

Lee Greenwood Makes It To The Top

By GARY STEWART
Editor

If there's one word that describes country and western singing sensation, Lee Greenwood, it's persistent.

He's been in the business for over 20 years and many times he felt like he'd never make it to the top. But he kept plugging away and made it. He recently was named Male Vocalist of the Year by the Country Music Association and just last week, his latest single, "Somebody's Gonna Love You" reached number one in the country charts.

Greenwood, who stayed at the Holiday Inn two nights last week while doing shows at Possum Hollar in Rock Hill, S.C., recalled the times when life wasn't so rosy for him.

His parents left him when he was a year old and he was reared by his grandparents on a farm near Sacramento, Calif. As a youngster, he knew he had to find some means of getting off the farm, so he turned to baseball and music.

Although many felt he was good enough to play pro baseball, the day he graduated from high school he hit the road to Las Vegas with hopes of



Photo by Gary Stewart

CHECKING OUT - Lee Greenwood, right, Country Music Association's Male Vocalist of the Year for 1983, is pictured above checking out after a two-day stay last week at the Kings Mountain Holiday Inn. Holiday Inn employees, left, to right, are Robin Sabucco, Pamela Scott and Leslie Sherrer.

becoming a singing star.

He worked as a cook, card dealer, and picked up other jobs to supplement his work as a backup singer and instrumentalist for many different Vegas acts.

Every time it looked like he was ready to make the big step on his own, something came along to spoil his dreams.

In 1979, while working the lounges in Nevada, he met Larry McFaden, who was a band leader and bass player for Mel Tillis. McFaden had been playing with Tillis for 13 years and was dreaming of becoming a manager.

He felt that Greenwood had a golden voice and they agreed to move to Nashville and record some demos. In 1981-82 years after leaving the farm-Greenwood signed a contract with Jerry Crutchfield of MCA Records as a writer and recording artist.

The work load now is almost unbearable. Greenwood and his band members travel to concerts all over the United States in two large buses, and he's been known to rehearse all day long and slip into a concert hall just moments before going on stage.

He has worked Possum Hollar on three occasions due to his friendship with Gene Black, who owns the club, but most of his dates come at much larger arenas such as the Charlotte and Greensboro Coliseums. When he left Kings Mountain last week, he was bound for engagements in Summerville, Ga., and Wheeling, W. Va., and a date with the Gatlin Brothers in Baton Rouge, La.

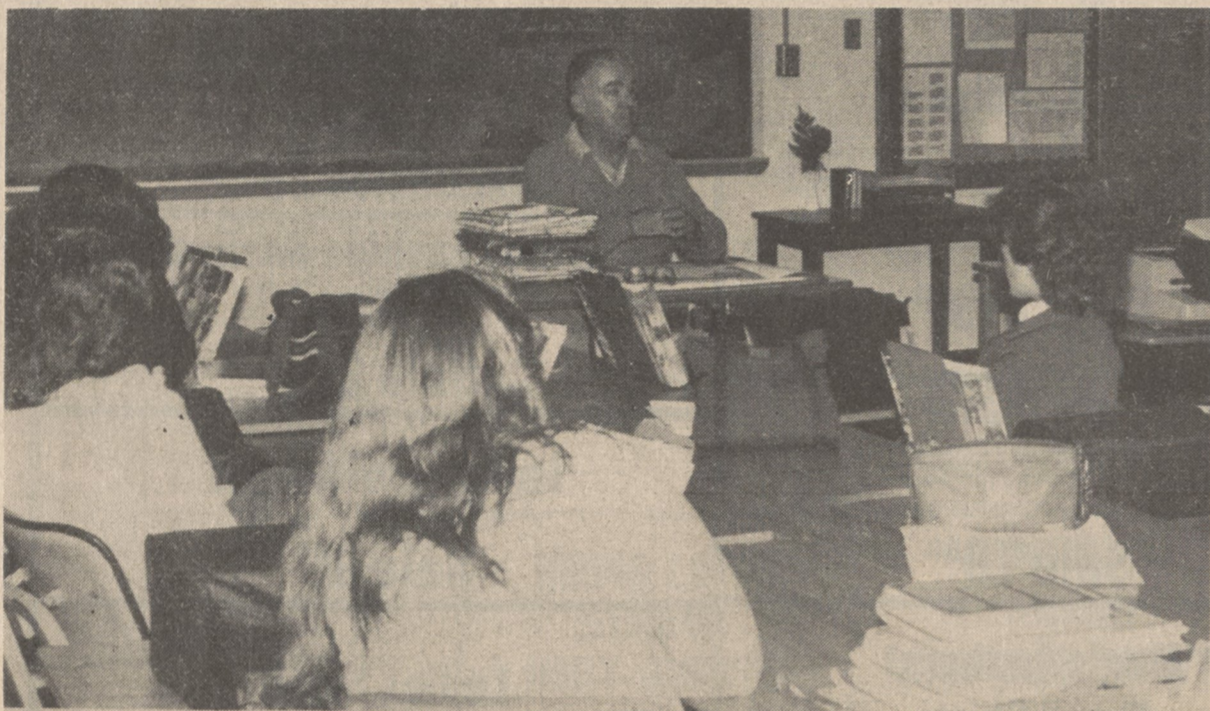
Playing a small club is refreshing.

"It's a very exciting audience and energetic crowd," he says. "They always make you feel welcome."

Greenwood credits most of his success now to his manager and his fourth wife, Melanie, who is a choreographer and dance coordinator for cable TV's "Dancin' USA."

The only drawback to his stardom is that he spends very little time with his children. But, knowing how it felt to grow up without parents, he makes the best of that time.

"My only recourse now is to take my wife or some of my kids with me occasionally so they can remember what Daddy looks like," he says.



Kyle Smith, School Board Member, teaches students of Sheila Sisk's High School Business Class getting first hand classroom experience during American Education Week. His lecture included helpful tips on making a good impression for a job interview.

Photo by Gail Shytle

Local Leaders Take Talents To Classroom

Kings Mountain School board members got some first-hand experience in dealing with the problems of public education when these elected local leaders spend at least one hour teaching school this week. The project, which was conceived and is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), is part of the national celebration of American Education Week, November 14-18.

Most NCAE local units invited county commissioners and school board members to spend at least one hour teaching a class or assisting a teacher and then spend another hour discussing school problems and successes with the principal, a teacher, and a parent leader. Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., in an official proclamation, has urged all commissioners and board members to accept the invitation to visit a school, teach a class, and discuss education.

Frances Cummings, President of NCAE stated, "We think this project will help make county commissioners and school board members better qualified to make school decisions. By having some direct, personal experience in the schools, county commissioners will be more able to make the right decisions on next year's budget. This experience will give school board members the first-hand knowledge they need when they consider school decisions."

Local participants in the Kings Mountain School system were:

Martha Bridges, William Davis, Greg Paysour, Blaine Froneberger, Ronnie Nanney, Glenda O'Shields, Paul Hord,

Bill Hager, Betty Gamble, Jackie Lavendar, Ronnie Wilson, Jerry Hoyle, Ed Guy, Jane Shields,

Ollie Harris, Cozell Vance, June Lee, James Scruggs, and Kyle Smith.

5-Foot Stork Announces

News Of Couple's Baby

When Steve and Susan Beam brought their new baby, Dustin Perry, home from the hospital last week they found a hand-painted 5-foot white stork with bright blue hat and legs perched in their yard at 6630 Harbor Point Drive. The stork, lettered with Dustin's name and birth weight, is a clever idea to announce Dustin's arrival on November 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Putnam, maternal grandparents of Dustin, arranged for the stork.

Dustin weighed seven pounds, 10 and one-half ounces of his arrival at Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby.

He is the first child of the Beams and is also grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Beam of Cherryville and great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Beam of Cherryville.

The stork remained in the Beam yard all last week and friends and neighbors enjoyed the treat and stopped by to see the new family member.

Susan Putnam Beam is a second grade teacher at Grover School in Cleveland County. Steve Beam works at Eaton Corporation on Grover Road, Kings Mountain.

Young Dustin is the eighth grandchild of the Hugh Putnams of Cherryville and is the first

grandchild in Steve's family. Hugh and "Jack" Putnam made the stork themselves and Mr. Putnam cut the pattern. It was really a labor of love for the doting grandparents but Mrs.

Putnam said that local folks can borrow her stork and pattern or obtain information on making one for themselves by calling Cherryville Country Corner Florist, 435-2536.



PHOTO BY LIB STEWART

FAMILY GATHERS AROUND STORK-Steve and Susan Beam and their first baby, Dustin Perry, gather around a five foot stork which has been boldly perched in their yard to announce the infant's arrival. The baby's grandparents arranged for the stork.

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