

Bedsole Top 12 D.J.

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the Kings Mountain man's name and his is the first nomination from a local gospel DJ in national competition.

Jerry said that radio broadcasting had always been his first love, and that he was eager to begin work with his own gospel music program. He joined Radio Station WKMT while a student at Carolina School of Broadcasting in Charlotte after working at Clevefont Mills and serving a hitch with Uncle Sam with a year's duty in Vietnam. For a year he gave up his Saturdays to go to school to learn more about the broadcasting business and when Jonas Bridges offered him a job at the local radio station he jumped at the chance. After he was on the job for a short time, the gospel music show was expanded two hours in the morning Mondays through Fridays with breaks for church announcements, church news,

weather forecasts, and plenty of time to play the requests which pour into the station.

The popularity of the disc jockey and his closeness with the record company, in addition to charts with the most requested gospel songs recorded on a monthly basis, are included in the criteria for judging the No. 1 disc jockey of the nation, says Jerry. Jerry said his work has been "most rewarding" and that he has met new friends, both from the radio audience and from the gospel music industry. "I would really like to play gospel music all day long here at the station", said Jerry, who said that some of his most avid listeners are shut-ins from a wide area who like to hear such favorites as the Rex Nelson Singers, the Singing Cookes, Squire Parsons, The Spencer Family, the Branham Family, the Hemphills and the Singing Americans, the latter the number one male gospel quartet in the nation which comes to

Kings Mountain Sept. 20th for a 7 p.m. concert at Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church.

Jerry has helped bring several major gospel groups to the area, including the Florida Boys, the Singing Cookes, the Cathedral Quartet, Jerry and Goffs and the McKameys.

When Jerry isn't working he enjoys his church and Hallelujah Supper Club, a non-profit christian club in Newton which features gospel music on Fridays and Saturdays beginning at 8 p.m. and for which Jerry has emceed on several occasions. The club is staffed by all volunteers and Jerry said that proceeds from the serving of the meal are used for community improvements.

Bedsole, a bachelor, is the son of Mrs. Mexie Bedsole of Kings Mountain and the late Mr. Bedsole.

To own an all-gospel Christian station is the dream of Bedsole, who wants every radio listener to turn the dial to WKMT and hear the gospel music he selects on a regular basis. He welcomes requests from listeners and said that his audience has told him his program was like going to Sunday School every day, which they appreciated.

Jerry says the Lord has blessed him and although no survey has been made of his listening audience, he feels his program is reaching many homes in the Kings Mountain area.

Faithful listeners who call to request a song or to chat "make my day", according to Bedsole.

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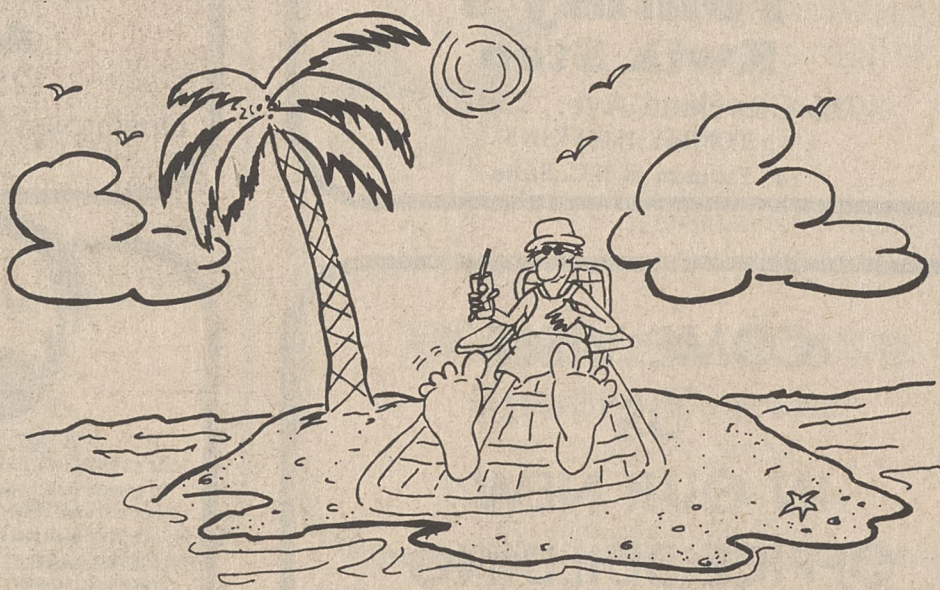
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