George Still Playing It 'Strait'

In 1979 George Strait was ready to give up music. He went so far as to give his band notice. He'd made several trips to Nashville, and couldn't get anything going. Strait had accepted a job with a company that designed cattle pens. He decided to give music another try, but for only one more year. Erv Woolsey, a MCA executive and former owner of a San Marcos nightclub, got MCA interested in Strait. In 1980 they signed him.

Strait didn't become a superstar over night. It took him a few years. His first single, "Unwound", caused him to be named New Male Artist of the Year by Billboard. In 1985 he was the County Music Association Male Vocalist of the Year, and repeated again in 1986. He's had 20 singles to hit number one. All 10 of his albums have gone gold, two becoming platinum. In 1987 his "Ocean Front Property" album not only went platinum, it made history by entering Billboards' chart at number one. In 1988 the single "All My Ex's Live In Texas" gave him his first Grammy nomination. Strait's new album is "Beyond the Blue Neon."

George grew up in Pearsall, Texas. His dad was a school teacher and part-time rancher. While in high school George played a rock and roll band, and after high school he went to Southwest Texas State University. He stayed there a short time, then joined the Army. He was stationed in Hawaii. THe base commander started a country band, George became a member of the band and got hooked on Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, and George Jones, and country music. In 1975 Strait went back to college to finish his degree in agricultural. He formed a band and began play-



STACEY SPICER

Stacey Spicer Two Years Old

Stacey Leigh Spicer celebrated her second birthday May 27 with a party at her home.

Stacey is the daughter of Tim and Robin Spicer and granddaughter of Beuford and Gloria Spicer and Dean and Betty Spears, all of Kings Mountain. She is the greatgranddaughter of Lois Spicer and the great-great niece of Bertha Blanton, both of Kings Mountain. She has an older sister, Maegan, who is five years old.

Stacey's family was treated to a cookout and afterwards enjoyed cake and ice cream.



BRENN KATES

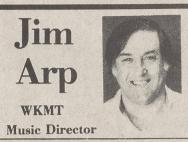
Brenn Kates Notes Birthday

Brenn Elizabeth Kates, daughter of Jerry and Debbie Kates, celebrated her third birthday May 27. A party for family and friends was held at McDonald's.

Brenn has an older sister, Abbey. Grandparents are George and Mary Melton of Kings Mountain and Henry and Atha Kates of Annapolis, Maryland.

IT'S A BOY

Herbie and Terri Beam of Gaffney, S.C., announce the birth of a son, Jaret Lucas Beam, May 30 at 8:14 a.m. at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. He has a brother, Jason Lance, age two. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lovelace of Kings Mountain and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beam of Gaffney, S.C. Greatgrandmothers are Mrs. Eunice Ledford and Mrs. Hilda Goforth, both of Kings Mountain.



ing dance halls and honky tonks. It was then that he became serious about being a star. The road was long and hard. He learned the ropes in the clubs, and made trips to Nashville looking for a break.

George projects an image that he's having fun with his music, especially the western swing number. He has just as much heart in the slow ballads.

Strait is one of the best traditionalists in country music. He has the ability to take a great song and make it a classic. He also has the talent to continue to be star.

Debutantes

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the Block", was begun. The puppet show is presented to every third grade over the county and is designed to depict children with differences. Of the nine puppets, one depicts a Vietnamese child, one which has suffered child abuse, one a retardate, one an epileptic, one with a learning disability, and other handicaps. The object is to promote better understanding among all children. The League assists in raising money for United Way through the residential campaign and the U-

The League has sponsored four Christmas Home tours and the annual Debutante Ball has been a glamorous event for 44 years. Other money making projects have included three Follies, four Horizon Fashion Premiers, the Great American Attic Sale, the Super Saturday Sale, Christmas bazaars, and bake sales, cookbook and stationery sales, thrift shops, benefit bridges, the Barter Theater, three popular antique markets, the Attic Treasures of '88, and this year's Decorator Showcase became the third for the League to sponsor. Their many successful fund-raising projects have provided the financial basis for the League's work in Cleveland County.

FOOD LION



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