

## 'Nice' Country Singers

It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice. Okay, I know it's an old worn out cliché. However, it's the best way I know to get into this column, which is about some music stars who aren't "stuck up." A lot of the entertainers will tell you, as long as you will listen, about how great they are. It's the only way their minds track. I'm not going to put the bad mouth on them, instead we'll dwell on some of the nice folks.

Greatness is not measured by conceit and arrogance, but a humble gifted person who knows they have talent know that it has been bestowed upon them by the Supreme Creator of all. It's nothing they have or haven't done. There's nothing they can do to get talent. You have to be sewed up with it inside.

Down through the years I've been fortunate enough to meet and know a lot of the big and little artists. I don't have a lot of space but would like to list three or four who are exceptional people.

Narvel Felts has to be one of the nicest people God ever made. Felts has had his name at the top of the page many times. He has been successful in both rock and country with a string of chart songs in both fields. He also has the prestige of being in the Sun stables which produced such stars as Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, and others. Felts is one of those highly talented artists who doesn't have to prop up his ego by blowing his own horn. He can and will talk to you about any subject.

George Hamilton IV had some

### Jim Arp



big hits in the early days of rock-a-billy and later hit the charts with some big country songs. He's also a big star overseas. He still has his feet on the ground, and his head hasn't swollen. I admire someone who can make the big time and still be sane about it.

Back in 1957 Charlie Gracie, a Phillie rock-a-billy singer, sold two and a half million copies with a song called "Butterfly." More hits would follow, but Gracie would and has remained one of the guys in the white hats. He's worked steady through the years and is still doing so today. He's managed to keep ego from pinning him in its cage. He's a credit to the music business.

Becky Hobbs, a highly energized performer, not only sings and writes well but is also a wizard on the piano. Her songs have been recorded by many of the top names in entertainment. She's cut a few of her own. So far her best selling platter is "Jones On The Jukebox." "Beckaree," as she's sometimes known, still hasn't lost communication with her fans. Not only is she friendly and talented, this Okie girl is pretty.

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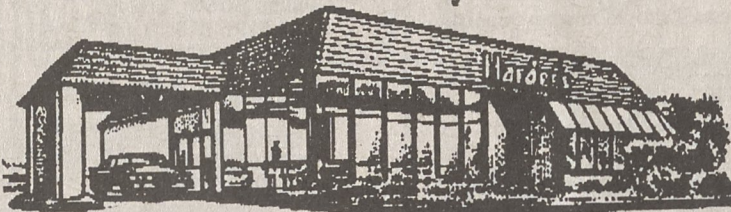
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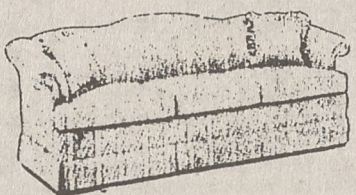
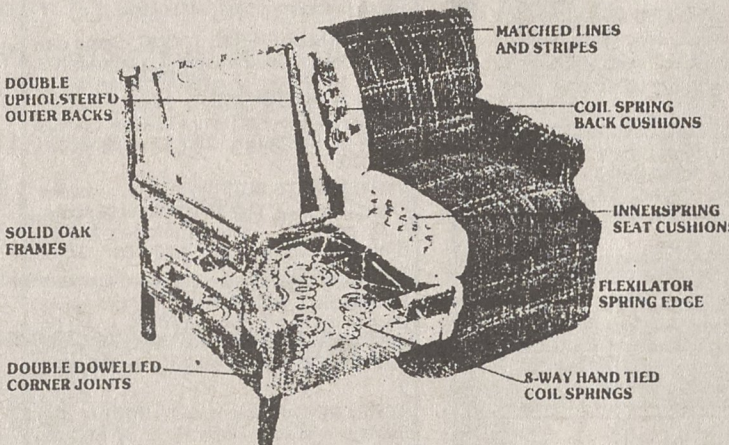
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