

"A Memorial Tribute To A Star" "PATSY CLINE"

by Don Owens

While, perhaps the old adage "only the good die young" is at best but a crude assessment of human dignity, there are many examples of gifted persons who's lives have been snuffed out by strange and melancholy hand of fate, prematurely.

In the world of music Russ Columbo, only 25, and at the peak of international fame, was the victim of a fatal shooting so unbelievable as to never be creditable in fiction. The late Hank Williams was only 29 when the grim reaper overtook him, and like Lord Byron, Keats, and Rupert Brook he represented to many flaming youth with an objective perception of life that often becomes dormant in older observers.

Patsy Cline was only thirty when her brief, meteoric career was brought to a tragic halt by a plane crash which also claimed the lives of Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins. It is only conjecture to compare those who "might" have risen to great heights had not death stepped in, and though it may be as senseless as comparing a Jack Dempsey with a Joe Louis, or a Rudolph Valentino with a Clark Gable, certainly those who knew Patsy were first to realize her versatility and depth would have given her equal footing with the top feminine vocalists of modern music, for she had that natural quality and vigor which so many of today's singers lack, and her appeal was largely based on the fact that her talent was legitimate, and the echo chamber, special arrangements or other technical tricks which plague the recording field today. If any one questioned Miss Cline's ability to belt out a ballad it was least of all Patsy, and this confidence was immediately apparent to any audience, for she was never the "scared" or "unsure" amateur who through a freak of modern promotion was catapulted into fame long before the proper delivery and stage presence was developed. What ever difficulties Patsy may have had, singing, and the natural sense of a quality performance was not one of them.

The veteran performers were first to realize this and root for her, as they perhaps are always first to comprehend a great talent.

Many will lament the passing of Patsy Cline, and there are those who are feverishly cashing in on her tragic death, but to those who knew Patsy best you can be sure her greatest monument is the fact that she was a trooper in the true sense of the word, and on

that rainy morning when the curtain finally rang down, perhaps prematurely by earthly standards, Patsy would be the first to proudly say "I told you I'd go out big". This Tribute written by The Late Don Owens one week before his own tragic death.



**PATSY, VERNON TAYLOR, AND THE LATE DON OWENS at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
Posing for a Promotion Shot**